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By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

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Arafat, Rabin win Spanish peace prize

OVIEDO, Spain (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel were awarded Spain's Prince of Asturias peace prize Friday for helping end decades of conflict in the Middle East. Considered the Spanish-speaking world's equivalent of the Nobel Peace Prize, the Prince of Asturias Award for International Cooperation went to the two men because they "opened a new path towards peace in the Middle East." This is a new alliance between old enemies who accept the need for peace for their respective peoples," the prize jury said. Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin first met last September in Washington to launch peace moves that resulted in the May 4 agreement on self-rule for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and the withdrawal of most Israeli forces from the two areas, which Israel had occupied since 1967. Past prize winners include former President Frederick W. de Klerk of South Africa, African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The award ceremony with Prince Felipe of Asturias, the heir to the Spanish throne, takes place in the fall.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, surrounded by Ajloun citizens after performing prayers (Petra photo)

Regent calls for further study of decision to increase school fees

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday asked the government to repeal to further study a decision it took last week to increase school fees. The Regent said the decision to increase school fees from JD 3 to JD 5 per student per scholastic year. Acting Prime Minister Thawra Hindawi responded by saying contributions will only be collected as of next year since the procedures for its regulations have still to be worked out. Those students who have already paid the increased amount will be refunded the difference said Mr. Hindawi, a former minister of education himself. The hike in the contribution raised significant debate in the country with many opposed to the increase while others found the measure necessary. The Regent told the government that while he believed the people should contribute towards the building and maintenance of schools, decisions should be studied carefully before being implemented. Prince Hassan was responding to people's complaint during a visit he made on Friday to the Governorate of Ajloun. Some parents told the Jordan Times that families with several children living on one, low income would find the additional fee an added hardship. They argued that the government should first look into ways of increasing the salaries of these low-income earners before imposing added financial burdens on them. According to Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, he had recommended that the increase in the school contribution be studied further. Mr. Rawabdeh told the Jordan Times Friday evening that the Crown Prince's directive was a measure designed to maintain the continuity of the ministry's procedures in collecting these funds in a democratic manner. The minister explained that Jordan offers free public school education to primary and secondary school students. Only at the secondary school level are students required to purchase their textbooks, he added. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, earlier Friday, Mr. Rawabdeh explained that the school contribution asked of students each scholastic year is used to improve the school environment and thus contribute to the sense of social solidarity embodied in the country's educational system. He told Petra that needy students would receive a 20 per cent exemption on their contributions. Schools reopened on Aug. 27 to 1.4 million students, according to the Ministry of Education. Of that total 120,795 students were entering school for the first time.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, surrounded by Ajloun citizens after performing prayers (Petra photo)



A policeman and a secret service agent (right) search two pedestrians in front of the conference hall (background) which will host the U.N. World Conference as of Monday.

Assad, Hrawi meet ahead of Christopher visit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — President Hafez Assad and Lebanese President Elias Hrawi met Friday to discuss the Middle East peace process ahead of an expected new diplomatic mission by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Mr. Hrawi, accompanied by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, drove to Damascus from Beirut. The two were greeted at the border by Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmoud Zou'bi. Mr. Hrawi last visited Damascus June 14 to discuss peace moves with Mr. Assad a week ahead of Mr. Christopher's fourth shuttle mission to the region this year seeking to revive stalled peace negotiations between Israel, Syria and Lebanon. The Lebanese media has said that Beirut and Damascus feel they must coordinate their strategies since the PLO and Jordan separately signed accords with Israel over the last year. Egypt signed a U.S.-brokered peace treaty with Israel in 1979. Syria and Lebanon are now the only Arab confrontation states still technically at war with Israel. Sources close to Mr. Hariri, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Beirut government expects Mr. Christopher to consult Lebanon on his forthcoming trip because he feels the time has come for it to be more involved in the peace process. Mr. Christopher excluded Lebanon from his itinerary in his four missions earlier this year, apparently because Damascus calls the shots there. Friday's Damascus meeting — attended by Hariri, Berri, Khaddam and Zou'bi — was likely to centre on coordination before Mr. Christopher's flies to the region later this month. The U.S. official has sought in vain to revive peace talks between Syria and Israel which have been stalemate since February. The Lebanese have stressed they will only resume talks when Syria does. Damascus wants a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights, which Israel captured in 1967 and annexed in 1981. Israel has offered only a partial and phased pullback over eight years. Damascus, which still insists on a comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement and not bilateral accords, rejects that. Mr. Assad and Mr. Hrawi were also expected to discuss ways to counter what they see as efforts to divide Syria and Lebanon. An Israeli newspaper reported last month that Lebanon was ready to end hostilities with Israel and normalise relations along the lines of the July 25 declaration signed by Jordan and Israel that ended 46 years of hostilities between the two countries. (Continued on page 3)

2 killed, hundreds arrested in feud over Cairo conference

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

CAIRO (Agencies) — Police on Friday shot dead three Muslim militants suspected of killing a Spanish teenager in an attack on a tourist bus last Friday in a dawn shootout at an apartment block in Sohag, 500 kilometres south of Cairo, they said. Police surprised the militants during a search for a gunman who killed two guards at a church overnight in Qafat, about 450 kilometres south of here. Twenty-one more militants linked to last Friday's tour bus attack were also arrested in southern Egypt in an operation which police said smashed a new cell set up to carry out attacks. Police added that they found guns, ammunition and communication equipment like fax machines in the apartment building. Last Friday Muslim militants ambushed a tourist bus travelling through Qena province with 11 Spanish tourists, killing the teenager and wounding four others, including his parents. The outlawed militant Gamaa Islamiyya on Saturday claimed the murder of the teenager and warned foreigners to stay away from the U.N. World Population Conference in Egypt's capital. Pablo Usan was the first tourist to be killed by militants since a German woman was shot and fatally wounded on board of a Nile cruise boat on March 4. The warning from Gamaa came after a lull of several months following widespread arrests. The conference, which is being held here from Sept. 5 to 13, will be attended by up to 20,000 delegates from 155 countries, including several heads of state or government. Meanwhile the Egyptian police have arrested hundreds of people as part of efforts to prevent militant attacks at the conference, police said Friday. Police told AFP that the wave of arrests began Aug. 29, a day before militants shot dead the 13-year-old Spanish tourist and one policeman in separate attacks in southern Egypt. Police quoted by the opposition newspaper Al Wafd said that 417 escaped convicts and 221 suspected "political activists" had been arrested in the past week. President Hosni Mubarak advised Muslim nations they would be the losers if they boycotted the U.N. conference. In an interview published by the London-based Al Hayat newspaper on Friday, Mr. Mubarak urged Muslim countries to attend to get a chance to oppose clauses in a draft document they feel violate Islamic teachings and principles. Their presence will make it harder for resolutions to be passed on matters they oppose, he argued. "If there are some items in the proposed document with ambiguities, that could be interpreted in many ways, wouldn't it be in the interest of the Islamic nation for their representatives to attend, oppose and stand up to any interpretation that is against religion and the Islamic Sharia?" Mr. Mubarak asked. "This way they (Muslims) will be a strong force that can say 'no' (to the draft) because it is against religion and is unacceptable," and then the whole world's public opinion will hear the Muslims are opposing it like the Christians and the Jews." "If we do not attend we are the losers... if we attend, we will be able to stand firm and strong and object to ev-

AMMAN - ADEN

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ROYAL JORDANIAN

YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD

U.S. may invade Haiti any time: Boutros Ghali

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The United States has the right to intervene militarily in Haiti at any time, without issuing an ultimatum, to oust the ruling junta, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali said Friday. In an interview with AFP, Mr. Boutros Ghali said the U.N. mandate on Haiti allows U.S. officials to launch an invasion "when they want." Mr. Boutros Ghali said that the U.N. role in Haiti is on hold for now "unless there is a new resolution," noting that the U.N. had abandoned its diplomatic efforts on Haiti. "The United Nations has given a mandate to a group of states to act and it is up to them to decide," the U.N. chief said. Suggestions of a possible U.S. invasion of Haiti have increased after the failure of a U.N. mission last month aimed at mediation. Several U.N. resolutions have urged the military to step aside and allow the restoration of democratic rule, and the latest authorises a U.S.-led force to remove the junta. The army toppled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in September 1991. Mr. Boutros Ghali said he was prepared to undertake another diplomatic initiative if the situation in Haiti changes, adding, "the U.N. should always be prepared to intervene to avoid the use of force." U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said Thursday that even if the transition is peaceful U.S. troops would be sent to Haiti to form a large part of an international force protecting Mr. Aristide and the restored government. Once order has been restored, a U.N.-led multinational force would replace the initial invasion force. Asked about turning over authority to the United States for the Haiti mission, Mr. Boutros Ghali said the U.N. has its limits. "We would have liked to handle these operations ourselves, but if you have neither the financial nor military means, one must at least have the wisdom to turn over the mandate to a group of states that are prepared," he said.

Mubarak rules out reconciliation with Iraq

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was quoted Friday as saying he did not believe reconciliation with Iraq was possible as long as Saddam Hussein remains in power. In an interview with the London-based Al Hayat newspaper, Mr. Mubarak also denied reports that he was working with the United Arab Emirates to try to end Iraq's isolation. Iraq has been ostracised by the West and much of the Arab World since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Egypt was part of the U.S.-led coalition that drove it out the following spring. Asked if reconciliation was possible while President Saddam remains the leader of Iraq, Mr. Mubarak told the paper: "It seems so to me that nobody accepts to deal with him." He added that Gulf states fear that if Egypt reconciled with Iraq, President Saddam "would repeat what he did in another way." Arab newspapers said earlier this week that Egypt and the United Arab Emirates were developing a joint initiative to repair Arab relations, including those with Iraq. The reports said that it was the main topic of a meeting Aug. 20 in Geneva between Mubarak and the United Arab Emirates' leader, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan. In the Al Hayat interview, Mr. Mubarak acknowledged that he had spoken with Sheikh Zayed "about Arab reconciliation in general." He noted that he also discussed the issue recently with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

Share prices drop at AFM

By Khaled Zubeidi
 Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The share price index at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) has retreated 3.1 points (2.1 per cent) last week as the market witnessed a series of losses. Accumulated losses since the beginning of the year and until last week were 7.2 per cent. Industrial shares suffered the largest loss as they fell 12.53 per cent since the beginning of the year. A series of political and financial factors weighed down on the Jordanian shares beginning with the obstacles facing the Israeli-Jordanian peace talks and ending with the proposals to amend the income tax law which stipulated taxing profits on share dealings carried out by companies. Dealers at the market have cautioned against big investors leaving the AFM as well as banks' unwillingness to enter into new deals. Major dealers whose portfolios are estimated at millions of Jordanian dinars have started a gradual withdrawal from the market with major sales on Wednesday. One dealer told the Jordan Times it was not the right time to withdraw from the market but that losses that might be incurred later "could prove intolerable." The AFM has suffered since July 1993 a series of administrative decisions and financial procedures imposed by the Central Bank of Jordan. These procedures, followed by the Oslo accords, the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks and signs of strain in

California State Senate allows knives in schools

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — A bill to allow children of the Sikh religion to wear ceremonial daggers to school won unanimous passage this week in the California State Senate. The bill, passed on a 30-0 vote Monday, must be signed by the California governor before becoming law. The daggers, known as Kirpans, are prohibited under state law forbidding knives with blades longer than 2 1/2 inches (6.3 centimetres) on school grounds. The bill would allow students to carry knives that are part of a recognised religious practice.

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Campaigning for Palestinian elections kicks off

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JERICHO — It has been only three months since Palestinian self-rule was introduced to the West Bank town a few kilometres west of the Jordan River but political campaigning has already begun among more than a dozen political groups expected to vie for power in a post-election Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Businessmen as well as politicians now travel through the West Bank bargaining over political favours rather than the price of vegetables or real estate.

Fateh, FIDA and pro-Jordanian politicians as well as anti-Oslo accord groups such as Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), have all begun to lobby community leaders, youth and the business community.

No one quite believes that the elections, which PNA officials say are set for Dec. 15, will take place on time. But local politicians are preparing for the first elections in recent history.

West Bank and Gaza Palestinians have two main

concerns, economic development and employment and greater personal and political freedoms.

While the former has been on the mind of people for decades the latter has become a real issue for debate since the PNA took over some three months because several clearly undemocratic decisions have been made by PNA President Yasser Arafat.

Two newspapers have been closed because they were not deemed sufficiently loyal, while the local broadcasting corporation "has become like that of all other Arab countries — the first ten items are dedicated to what the leader did today," said Nasser Abu Anyeh, a 22-year-old Al Quds University student who spent three years in Israeli jails because of his pro-Fateh loyalties.

Local Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that were headed by people close to Mr. Arafat or part of his government have become appendages of the PNA against their own better judgement.

... Palestinian Human Rights Information Centre (PHRIC) was formerly associated with Faisal Hussein's Research Centre

on East Jerusalem. After Hussein became a member of the Arafat government, the PHRIC attempted to stay an independent organisation, but Mr. Arafat refused. The organisation's head, Jan Abu Shakra duly resigned in protest.

With the exception of traditional political leaders most Palestinian politicians who are not associated with the PNA have little financial power and thus have great difficulty in "making things happen." But political programmes advocating democratic freedoms, power sharing between political groups and a legal framework guaranteeing due process in law and government are all on the political agenda of parties such as the Palestine Peoples Party (PPP), FIDA, the PFLP and even Hamas.

"Most people in the West Bank and Gaza are looking for a mechanism by which Arafat could be given an honorary position — like that of the president of Israel — something purely symbolic with which he can kiss people and shake hands but have no real power," said one long time human rights activist in Ramallah.

"Political organisations are preparing themselves



When Palestinian students start school for the first time in 27 years, the Palestinian National Authority will be in charge of their education (AFP photo)

for a world that is very different from the one the PNA is setting up in Gaza," said a PPP activist in Ramallah.

"We don't want anything bad to happen to us. We want to promote him to an 'above-it-all' post in which he will be happy and our lives are allowed to develop," said the PPP activist.

While ruling Gaza, in particular, is a matter of concern for most of the political groups active in

the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, it is in the political and demographic centres of the West Bank — Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron and Jerusalem — that most hope to plant the seeds of political change and development.

They are the traditional centres for most Palestinian politicians planning government and business future.

No one is quite sure when the PNA will take

over the West Bank or East Jerusalem, but many political and business leaders are already preparing for the time that will bring greater self-rule.

Eight branches of Jordan-based banks have opened up in different West Bank towns and cities in the past month. Almost all are offering wide-ranging loans for small business ventures as well as much-needed housing projects.

Palestinian refugees support King's policy

AMMAN (Petra) — Refugee notables from three Palestinian refugee camps in and around Amman Thursday voiced their absolute support for His Majesty King Hussein's policy at the national, pan-Arab and international levels, and lauded the King's untiring efforts to lay down the foundations for a democratic society characterised by freedom, justice and respect for human rights.

Speaking at a rally held at Al Wihdat refugee camp and attended by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Taher Masri, representatives of the Palestinian refugees said the proclamation of King Hussein as King of Jordan on Aug. 8, 1952 was a distinguished historic event.

Bahjat Shihab of the Wihdat Club said that King Hussein has dedicated his life to the building of Jordan where freedom and human dignity are preserved.

Hamad Fara'neh, president of Al Hussein Camp's Youth Centre said that King

Hussein's accession to the Throne was a clear occasion to all Jordanians and said the residents of Al Hussein Camp were jubilant for joining the two other camps in celebrating this occasion.

Mr. Fara'neh, a prominent communist, said the peace process that the King is spearheading has foisted two projects fatal to the well-being of Jordan, the Greater Israel Project and the Jordanian-Palestine Israeli solution.

The creation of the Palestinian authority in Gaza, Jericho, to be spread to occupied West Bank and Jerusalem later, has foisted Israel's plan to establish a greater Israel on the entire Palestinian territories, Mr. Fara'neh said.

The peace accord with the Palestinians, despite its unjust conditions and provisions, has also foisted the alternative land project. It confirmed that Palestine is the land of Palestinians and Jordan is the land of Jordanians.

'Trilateral committee met in Washington'

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States State Department spokesman Michael McCurry has confirmed that the U.S.-Israeli-Jordanian trilateral economic committee held what he called an "informal meeting" in Washington August 31.

He described the meeting as a follow-up to expert-level talks held recently in Jordan and said they were designed to build on previous discussions held by the trilateral economic committee.

"They are looking specifically at the Jordanian Rift Valley development project.

That's been the focus of the talks today," especially "concrete, practical things" that can assist in the development, McCurry said. "I don't want to get into the specifics while they continue to talk," he added.

Jordan was represented by Fayez Tarawneh, ambassador to the United States, while the Israelis were led by Elyakim Rubenstein, head of Israel's team for bilateral negotiations with Jordan. Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process, led the U.S. delegation.

Fundamentalists destroy Aden's mausoleums

ADEN, Yemen (AFP) — Muslim fundamentalist militiamen ransacked mausoleums in the southern Yemeni city of Aden on Friday, charging they were un-Islamic, eyewitnesses said.

Dozens of bearded men armed with anti-tank rockets and automatic weapons burst into a mosque in the centre of Aden and destroyed the mausoleum of a leading Yemeni religious figure.

The militiamen fired in the air to create panic and went on to ransack the tomb of Al Aidarus, a cleric who died some 400 years ago. Security officers arrived on the scene too late.

The mosque's administrator, Abdul Qader Al Aidarus, told AFP that the gunmen belonged to the Islamic Jihad (holy war) militia.

Police said Jihad members

had pillaged mausoleums in other districts of the port city the same day.

Aden, the former stronghold of the southern Yemeni Socialist Party, became a centre of Islamic fundamentalist activity after it fell to northern troops loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh on July 7.

The city's capture marked the end of a two-month civil war between southern troops and Mr. Saleh's forces, which erupted on May 5.

During the war, Yemeni authorities announced the arrest of more than 100 Jihad members.

The group, which has several training camps in north Yemen, has also been accused of carrying out a string of bomb attacks in 1992 on Aden hotels used by foreigners.

Moroccan Jews celebrate links with old country

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's 450,000 Jews of Moroccan origin celebrated Friday the diplomatic breakthrough with Rabat as a chance to renew links with the "old country."

"It's an historic day which gives us the opportunity to rediscover our roots," said Ahsaoun Nahmias, president of the Association of Moroccan Jews.

"Our happy childhood memories of a time when we lived as brothers with the Moroccan people have come back to us today," he said, visibly moved.

Israel and Morocco announced Thursday that they were to open liaison offices in Tel Aviv and Rabat, in a first step towards establishing full diplomatic relations.

The 450,000 first and second generation Moroccan Jews who flooded into Israel in the 1950s have clung to their cultural identity.

Families keep Moroccan-style, celebrate family occasions in age-old tradition and dance to the music of Moroccan bands in the nightclubs of Tel Aviv and surrounding towns.

Algerian deportees from Morocco arrive in France

MARSEILLE, France (Agencies) — More than 1,000 people, most of them French-based Algerians or French nationals of Algerian origin, docked here on Friday after being deported from Morocco.

The 1,100 people, who arrived from Oran, Algeria, aboard the Algerian ferry Zeralda, were expelled from Morocco amid fears of the spread of Islamic fundamentalist violence from Algeria.

Another car ferry, the Tipaza, left Oran for Alicante at the same time, with another 1,000 on board.

A total of 10,000 tourists have been expelled from Morocco since the murder of two Spanish tourists in Marrakech on August 24.

French police were on Friday still questioning 21 out of 27 people, mostly French Algerians and Moroccans, rounded up on Thursday at a Moroccan request made via Interpol, in connection with the killings.

The 27, arrested in the Paris area and at Orleans, were connected to four French nationals of Algerian and Moroccan origin arrested in Morocco for the murders. Interior Minister Charles Pasqua said.

The 27 were linked to French Algerian Stephane Alt Idir, 22, and French Moroccan Redouane Hammedi, 24, who live in the Paris suburb of La Courneuve, and Kamal Benachia, who lives in Orleans.

A fourth Panisian, French Moroccan Abdesslam Gherrouas, was arrested in Morocco.

Morocco imposed a visa requirement on Algerian nationals last week after the killings. Algeria closed its land border in retaliation and said Moroccans would need visas.

France this week deported 20 alleged Islamic militants to Burkina Faso for allegedly

supporting terrorism and imposed severe visa restrictions on Algeria, where Islamic fighters are trying to overthrow the military-backed regime.

In an interview with AFP in the lobby of the OK Inn, in the Burkina capital Ouagadougou, where the Islamists — 19 men and one woman — are staying, they confirmed they were all members of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front, which is waging an armed rebellion against that country's military-backed regime.

"We are here for 15 days at the minimum but, even if France allows some of us to return, we will not go back, it is a question of pride," Rachid Tounsi said.

Djaffar Al Houari, president of the Algerian Brotherhood in France, said he was relieved he had left France which, he said, "makes pronouncements on what goes on in Algeria as if it is a region of France or an overseas territory."

Another militant who wished to remain unidentified said the government of Burkina Faso had provided a "service" to France. "But also to us, the future government of Algeria," he added.

On Thursday, the French Foreign Ministry revealed that a businessman of dual French-Algerian citizenship has been shot dead a week ago in the western Algerian town of Oran.

Rene Bouhanna, who owned a fish canning company, was killed outside his home. He had lived in Algeria since before independence from France in 1962.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack. The killing, which had not been reported previously, took to 17 the number of French nationals killed since the militant Islamic armed group (GIA) told foreigners to leave the country or face death.

Also Thursday, Hassan Al Turabi, the leader of the Sudanese fundamentalists, called on France to urge the Algerian government to

smooth its relations with the FIS.

He gave interviews to several French dailies in which he blamed the European Union, and notably France, for accepting the cancellation of elections in Algeria.

Mr. Turabi said French officials had asked him to intervene with the FIS on France's behalf. He said "French officials asked me to intervene to help secure a settlement and an improvement in relations with the FIS."

"It is now up to these countries to convince the Algerian government to negotiate. They have enough ways of applying pressure," Mr. Turabi said.

Mr. Turabi said France was increasingly alone in supporting the Algerian government. He said "the Americans and the British don't, and Italy and Spain are in favour of a negotiated solution."

Mr. Turabi told InfoMatin that he had already discussed the issue with Europeans including French officials.

"Each time I drew their attention on the need to talk to the fundamentalists. Both they and the government have given encouraging signs recently."

French Interior Minister Pasqua said, he did not believe France had "solicited" Mr. Turabi's help.

"I don't believe at all that France intervened. It is none of our business, it's up to the Algerians to sort their own affairs out."

But he told the Europe-1 radio station that France would welcome "a really democratic government which has the widespread support of the population in Algeria."

Mr. Turabi, the rector of the Khartoum law faculty and "guide" of the Sudanese fundamentalists, finished his constitutional and international law doctorate in France. "When I returned to Khartoum, I decided to work towards establishing privileged relations with France," he told InfoMatin.

Rafsanjani defends achievements

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran's president Friday defended his record after more than five years in office, saying the country had become self-sufficient to an extent that even U.S. economic sanctions cannot hurt it, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Mr. Hashemi Rafsanjani as saying that "the situation today is such that even if the entrance gates to the country were shut it would create no real difficulty."

He said it was "this reality that banishes the thought of economic sanctions against Iran from the mind of arrogance."

Iranian leaders commonly use that epithet to refer to the United States.

Mr. Rafsanjani, speaking in a sermon at Tehran University, said the pace of post-war reconstruction was good.

Despite his defence, Iranians are unimpressed with

his administration. He won a second four-year term in June last year — against lackluster candidates — with a promise to galvanise the moribund economy and improve living conditions for Iran's 60 million population.

But the collapse of oil prices last winter sent prices tumbling to less than \$13 a barrel. Oil exports are the mainstay of the Iranian economy.

The slump and foreign debts of more than \$20 billion have put increased economic pressures on Iranians, most of whom live in poverty.

All this year, the government has been plagued by unrest believed to have been inspired by public frustration with the economy.

In February, during celebrations marking the 15th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic revolution, Mr. Rafsanjani was the target of an assassination attempt,

according to Iranian officials.

Last month violence was reported in the northwestern city of Qazvin, where protests went on a rampage, trashing shops, banks and government buildings.

Washington has sought, with little success, to persuade its allies to isolate Iran on the grounds it allegedly sponsors international terrorism.

Iran has said that despite the rhetoric the United States remains among the top buyers of its oil.

Mr. Rafsanjani was elected president in July 1989, a few weeks after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, founder of the Islamic revolution, died of cancer.

At that time, Iran was recovering from the 1980-88 war with Iraq, which caused about one million casualties on both sides and demolished Iran's military and key economic installations.

Iran: Argentina 'apologised'

TEHRAN (R) — Iran said on Friday Argentina had made a noble gesture by "apologising" for accusing Iranian officials of bombing an Argentine Jewish centre.

The withdrawal of the charges against four Iranian officials disgraced the United States and Israel, which wanted to make a basis from the cases "to condemn us in international bodies for years," President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said.

Argentina, which had threatened to break diplomatic ties with Iran over the bombing that killed 96 people, sent Iran a conciliatory letter on Wednesday, eight days after it dropped charges against the four for lack of evidence.

"The Argentine foreign ministry has sent us a letter of apology," Mr. Rafsanjani said in a mass prayer sermon.

"It does not contain the word 'apology', but (it amounts to the same thing) when the foreign ministry writes a conciliatory letter while until recently they accused us of going there and

exploding a bomb," he said.

"I was surprised how quickly a government can make a U-turn. This is of course a noble gesture, but the United States and Israel insisted that Argentina should not make this turnaround. It is a scandal, a disgrace for the United States and Israel."

Israel and Washington blamed Iran for the July 18 explosion in Buenos Aires even before the result of the initial Argentine investigation implicating the Iranians was made public.

The United States publicly pledged to back Argentina if it severed diplomatic relations with Tehran.

Last week U.S. President Bill Clinton condemned Iran as the world's "leading state sponsor of terrorism."

Washington has not commented on the withdrawal of the Argentine charges.

The charges were based on testimony of a Moroccan, Motamer, an Iranian seeking asylum in Latin America. He was first billed as a former diplomat but his testimony



was later questioned.

Tehran said Mr. Motamer was a shopkeeper wanted for fraud and forgery by Iranian courts who posed as a former diplomat or senior civil servant.

Mr. Rafsanjani said the episode showed "our enemies are so empty-handed in finding something to stick on us that they resort to anyone, even a fraudster."

He also chided the Western countries involved because "for all their claims of having reliable intelligence, they could not figure out whether he (Motamer) was a diplomat, a deputy minister, or what."

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 731111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:00	Coup De Bleu Dans L'Etoile
17:11	Le Monde Sous Marine
17:20	News in French
18:30	Ushuaia
19:00	News in Hebrew
19:30	Dimenson
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Movies, Games, and Videos
21:00	One To One
21:30	The Campbell
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film: "Happy New Year"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:47	Fajr
16:07	Sunrise/Duha
12:35	Dhuhr
16:11	'Asr
19:05	Maghreb
20:27	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweidhah, Tel. 117741	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632783	
St. George Church, Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church, Tel. 661757	

TERRACOTA CHURCH Tel. 622266	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 623543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 715261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	20 / 31
Amman	25 / 39
Aqaba	25 / 39
Jericho	13 / 36
Jordan Valley	24 / 38
Yesterday's high temperatures:	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Ghazi Zaidieh	736011
Dr. Yousef Nizar	751144
Dr. Fakher Al-Jaberi	663412
Dr. Khalidoun Asfour	666873
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	785356
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Naloukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636750
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	647660
Najib pharmacy	647652
HAZRA:	
Dr. Ali Shogairi	246140
Al-Quds pharmacy	— (—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Khalil Abu Haseen	965000
Khalil pharmacy	965417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111

CIVIL DEFENCE DEPARTMENT	
661111	
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	773121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	651176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	810230
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	121
Directorial assistance	101230
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	731111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	615615
Electric Power	636381
RA Flight Information	08-5320
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport	08-5320

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	
642816	
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn	643412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palastine, Shmeisani	664104
Shmeisani Hospital	664104
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667279
The Islamic, Abdali	6661237
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
Al-Ahli, Al-Muhajreen	7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf	7751126
Army, Marka	8916115
Queen Alia Hospital	60224050
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	09/983323
Central Amman Hospital	09/983323
Ibn Sina Hospital	09/900560
Al-Hilma Modern Hospital	09/909090
DRBD:	
Princess Basma Hospital	02/572555
Great Catholic Hospital	02/572555
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital	02/574700
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	03/314111

ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ)	
Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:40	Beirut (RJ)
08:00	Aqaba (RJ)
12:00	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00	Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
12:00	Paris (add) (RJ)
13:45	Muscat, Doha (RJ)
13:45	London (RJ)
14:30	Madrid (RJ)
15:00	Bahrain, Ooha (RJ)
21:00	Guava (RJ)
21:30	Jeddah (RJ)
21:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (add) (RJ)
22:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
09:15	Beirut (MS)
13:50	Vladivostok (MS)
14:30	Abu Dhabi (GF)
21:00	Sana'a (GF)
21:15	Cairo (MS)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
04:20	Vienna (OA)
13:30	Muscat, Doha (GF)
15:45	Rome, Larnaca (A2)
20:00	Sana'a (FY)
20:20	Cairo (IMS)
20:30	Paris, Damascus (AF)
23:25	Amsterdam (KL)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ)	
Flights	
(Terminal 1)	
06:45	Beirut (RJ)
08:00	Aqaba (RJ)
12:30	Amsterdam (KL)
12:30	Istanbul (RJ)
12:55	Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
14:40	Paris (add) (RJ)
13:45	Madrid (RJ)
13:45	Muscat (add) (RJ)
13:55	London (RJ)
15:30	Beirut (RJ)
20:05	Madrid (RJ)
21:40	Sahara, Ocala (RJ)
21:40	Larnaca (RJ)
21:40	Jeddah (RJ)
21:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (add) (RJ)
21:45	Damascus (RJ)
21:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
09:15	Beirut (ME)
14:30	Vienna (OS)
14:30	Abu Dhabi (GF)
21:40	Cairo (IMS)

Refugees support King's policy

Refugees in and around Amman have expressed their support for the King's policy of peace and reconciliation. The King's policy is seen as a democratic and realistic approach to the conflict.



FRIDAY PRAYERS IN AJLOUN: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, attends Friday prayers at Ajloun Mosque with other worshippers and listened to a sermon delivered by Sheikh Fathi Al Qudah. Sheikh Qudah said all the nation stands behind the Hashemite leadership in its endeavours to establish a just, lasting and comprehensive peace that guarantees the rights of Muslims in the holy places.

Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to prepare an integrated plan for the restoration of Ajloun Mosque and to include it in the projects covered by the royal commission for the restoration of mosques and tombs of the Prophet Mohammad's companions and the martyrs. The Ajloun Mosque was built in 1247 A.D. upon orders from King Saleh Najmul Deen Ayoub. The mosque's minaret was built upon orders by Al Dahar Belbars in 1263. The mosque was restored from inside upon orders by His Majesty King Hussein during the first years of assuming his constitutional powers. The height of the mosque's minaret was raised from 18 metres to 40 metres upon orders by King Hussein in 1962 (Petra photo)

al committee in Washington

That's been the focus of the talks today, especially "concrete, practical things" that can assist in the development, McCurry said. "I don't want to get into the specifics while they continue to talk," he added.

ESCWA, Arab League organise meeting for world summit on social development

AMMAN (J.T.) — In preparation for the World Social Summit on Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen in March 1995, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the League of Arab States are organising a preparatory expert group meeting as a step towards formulating a draft Arab Declaration for Social Development, an ESCWA statement said.

Italians destroy mausoleums

had pillaged mausoleums in other districts of the port city the same day.

Al Ahli Club continues to entertain after 50 years

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Celebrating the King's accession to throne and his own golden jubilee, Al Ahli Club presented a four-day performance in which 11 Circassian folk songs and dances were introduced last week at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Jews celebrate old country

Israel and Morocco announced Thursday that they were to open liaison offices in Tel Aviv and Rabat, in a first step towards establishing full diplomatic relations.

Regent calls for further study

(Continued from page 1)
the ministry said. Advocates of the increased students' contribution rate say that the public should be encouraged to contribute to the educational system and not turn the country into a welfare state. But they agree that measures should be taken to raise the standard of living of those who fall within the

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg	
Apple	650/400
Banana	450/350
Beans (Mushroom)	120/100
Cabbage	300/250
Carrot	200/150
Cauliflower	200/150
Cucumbers (large)	400/300
Cucumbers (small)	300/250
Eggplant	200/150
Garlic	400/300
Grapes	420/300
Guava	280/180
Lemon	280/180
Marrow (large)	400/300
Marrow (small)	280/180
Mushrooms	280/180
Onion (dry)	280/180
Sweet Melon	240/180
Pepper (hot)	380/250
Pepper (sweet)	380/250
Potatoes	300/250
Peas	300/250
Tomato	300/250
String beans	300/250
Watermelon	140/100

Egyptian president urges

(Continued from page 1)
inexpensive topic but it scares ministers and prime ministers who know it could take off and cost them their jobs," said one Western diplomat based in the Indian subcontinent.

Assad, Hrawi to meet

(Continued from page 1)
Lebanese expressed interest in a nine-month-old Israeli offer, whereby the Lebanese army would deploy along the southern border with Israel, disarm Iranian-backed guerrillas and guarantee the safety of Israeli-backed Lebanese militiamen.

Jordan Gulf Bank labour dispute ends

Employees to earn additional JD 30 per month

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — A year-long labour dispute between the Jordan Gulf Bank management and the Union of Bank Workers ended with a settlement to increase the bank employees' salaries by 30 per month and grant them other fringe benefits beginning Oct. 1.

Irbid clans agree to settle blood feud in court

By Rana Hasselini
Special to the Jordan Times
IRBID — The family of an Irbid man who last week shot and killed his 23-year-old wife and severely injured her father urged the court to sentence him to the most severe punishment for the murder, family members said.



WALKING TO HELP: Depressing for Her Majesty Queen Noor Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Friday attends a charity walk, organised by Amman Chamber of Commerce to mark His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne. Taking part in the march, which started from the Orthodox Church in

Surgeons acquire valuable information at gastrointestinal meeting — JSG chief

By Rima Corbawi
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The Medico-Surgical Gastrointestinal (GI) Conference Friday ended, but "the medical information acquired by both attendees and participants will remain to affect the process of modifying medical approach and techniques so that elevated standards can be ensured," said Hashem Abu Hassan, president of the Jordanian Society of Gastroenterologists (JSG).

WHAT'S GOING ON

- GATHERING**
 - Gathering with artist Jamal Badran at the Young Women's Christian Association at 6:00 p.m. (The gathering includes a slide show and a discussion).
- LECTURE**
 - Lecture in Arabic entitled "Democracy — An Islamic Contemporary Vision" by Mr. Abu Bakr, leader of Islamic Da'wa Movement, at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.
- EXHIBITIONS**
 - Exhibition of household items at the Amman International Motor Exhibition, Airport Road (Tel. 827408).
 - Exhibition of paintings by selected Iraqi artists at Alla Art Gallery (Tel. 639383).
 - Exhibition of Jordanian-made commodities at the International Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 847113).
 - "The Diness Exhibit" — beginnings of photography in Jerusalem and the Holy Land at the American Center exhibition hall, Abdoun.
 - Exhibition of paintings entitled "Fantasia II" (depicting Islamic style) by Iraqi artist Widad Orfali at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utthina (Tel. 826932).
 - Exhibition of abstract art by Khalif Khalif and Nizar Younis at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art (Tel. 695291).
 - Exhibition entitled "Time-2 Space 1" by Samia Zaron at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

WANTED

A major commercial establishment dealing in cosmetics and perfumes
Needs
Saleswomen
To work in the field of cosmetics and beauty care.
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For interview call
Tel. 824002, Amman

U.S., Cuba hold 'useful' talks, exodus continues

NEW YORK (R) — The United States and Cuba were scheduled to hold their second day of talks Friday afternoon on the mass migration of thousands of Florida-bound Cubans as the exodus continues unabated.

The two sides come to the table with different agendas. Cuba is seeking to end the U.S. embargo which has crippled it economically, while the United States is trying to halt the uncontrolled flood of Cuban refugees, who for the past month have been fleeing north in flimsy rafts.

Ricardo Alarcon, Cuba's former foreign minister and U.N. ambassador, said: "We still have a long way to go before finding an agreement and a long way to go in order to really solve the problem."

He again insisted, in a Cable News Networks interview Thursday night, that the only real solution was for the United States and Cuba to end the hostility between them and for Washington to lift the economic embargo.

Asked if he brought up the embargo, Mr. Alarcon said: "Every time I speak about this issue I can assure you I always refer to the embargo."

But he said he detected no change in the U.S. position.

U.S. spokesman David Johnson characterised Thursday's session at the United States U.N. mission "serious, professional and businesslike."

Mr. Johnson said the United States went into details

of how it believed the two sides could achieve "what we believe is a mutual objective — funneling the desire to emigrate into legal, safe, orderly, predictable and dependable process and stemming the uncontrolled outflow."

Washington is expected to increase its quota on legal immigration from Cuba, as well as, perhaps lift new sanctions on humanitarian goods and travel just imposed.

But it will also seek "the return of those Cuban excludables currently in United States jails" — a reference to those freed from prison in Cuba provided they joined the exodus. The same thing happened during a mass emigration of Cubans from the port of Mariel in 1980.

In the meantime, U.S. officials at Guantanamo naval base were reconsidering how they handle Cubans who approach the base on land after an incident in which three Cubans were injured by a mine blast.

On Wednesday, 23 Cubans made a disastrous attempt to reach the U.S. outpost from Cuban territory, apparently in an effort to join refugees held there since mid-August.

Following current U.S. policy, guards told the group to go back and one set off a land mine. One Cuban's eye was injured in the blast — he was sent to Miami for treatment — and two others were being treated at the base for leg injuries, said Lieutenant Pete Mitchell, spokesman for



Cuban former political prisoners sit in Havana's Vedado district on the second day of their hunger strike to protest the U.S. new policy not to grant

instant asylum to Cuban refugees. All 50 men and six women observing the hunger strike have applied for U.S. visas (AFP photo)

the base.

"In light of the incident, the policy of sending them back is under review," he said.

The base, for decades a sore point between Havana and Washington, now shelters more than 15,000 of the would-be Cuban migrants, shipped there by the U.S. Coast Guard since President

Bill Clinton announced Aug. 19 they would no longer be granted automatic asylum in the United States.

In Miami, a seven-member congressional delegation returned Thursday evening from a trip to the Cuban refugee camp.

Representative Robert Torricelli, a New Jersey Democrat, urged the Clinton

administration to maintain a hard line against Cuba's communist ruled government.

"The real answer to the refugee crisis is not an agreement with Castro. It's an end to the Castro government," he said.

Meanwhile the U.S. Coast Guard reported that it had picked up nearly 1,500 Cuban rafters from the Florida

Straits Thursday.

And Cuban migrants also continued to land in the nearby British colony of the Cayman Islands, with the arrival of 43 more rafters Thursday.

A total of 260 Cuban refugees are now being held in a detention camp on Grand Cayman, a tiny upscale island that is a major offshore financial centre.

Pope's planned visit to Sarajevo is morale boost, security nightmare

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Pope John Paul II's planned visit to Sarajevo is being hailed as the biggest spiritual and morale boost to the besieged population since the start of the war.

But for security officials, it is set to be a nightmare.

The airport area is frequently raked by gunfire and often closed by mortar attacks. The speed-skating stadium, where the 74-year-old Pontiff wants to hold mass for 25,000 people is only a few hundred yards from the front line. And the risk of sniper fire on most parts of the planned route is omnipresent.

"All U.N. troops will be on full alert. There will be maximum security," said Col. Bertrand Labarsouque, the U.N. military spokesman for Sarajevo. "But nobody can guarantee 100 per cent security in Sarajevo."

U.N. officials privately refer to the planned Sept. 8 visit as a "nightmare."

The Vatican said Thursday that the Pope remained intent on his trip.

However, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has warned the Pope against the visit, citing security risks. He maintains that the Serbs fear they will automatically be blamed if something does happen to the Pontiff.

The same kind of threat recently prevented U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry from landing at Sarajevo airport.



Pope John Paul II

In addition to the U.N. protection, Bosnian officials say they are leaving nothing to chance.

"This is the visit of the highest official to Bosnia-Herzegovina. It's because of that we are putting so much importance into it," said Zeljko Varunec, head of security for the papal visit within the Bosnian Interior Ministry.

"The best men we have in

the republic are in this team," he said. "And they are working around the clock."

As soon as plans for the visit were announced, Bosnian police started to cooperate with foreign security services, including Interpol.

Mr. Varunec says lists of international terrorists are being checked, and any radical Muslim units in the Bosnian army are being brought

under control. Since the Serbs were forced to pull back heavy weapons from around Sarajevo in March, a shaky calm has descended on the beleaguered city.

But flights into Sarajevo are vulnerable to ground attacks. The U.N. airlift has been suspended several times in the past month because of mortar and sniper fire.

Bosnian Serbs have warned that all aircraft that miss their allocated landing slot may be fired on. A helicopter was hit by five rounds of small arms fire Thursday as it tried to land near U.N. headquarters.

Situated on the front line, the airport is surrounded by minefields and weapons of both warring sides.

From the airport, the Pope has to travel the city's most dangerous stretch of road — the infamous sniper alley — to arrive at the presidency building to meet top government officials.

After that, the security headaches are set to worsen with Mass at the open-air speed-skating ring at Zetra.

This is deemed the safest area in the massive Sports Complex which was built for the Sarajevo winter Olympic Games in 1984 and which — like so many city landmarks — has been reduced to a scarred eyesore.

Security officials say they are preparing shelters for the crowds of worshippers in the event of an attack from Serb artillery on nearby hills.

Time for talks on Serbia sanctions — Romania

BUCHAREST (AFP) — The Romanian foreign minister has called for discussion to start on loosening the embargo against its neighbour Serbia.

The embargo has cost Romania several billion dollars in lost trade with the former Yugoslav republic. Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu said, calling for compensation to be paid to all Serbia's neighbours.

Serbia has proved its goodwill by breaking off political and economic relations with Bosnia's Serbs, he added.

"It is time to discuss loosening sanctions in line with the progress made in the peace progress," Mr. Melescanu said. He plans to bring up the matter when his French counterpart Alain Juppe visits Sept. 7 and 8.

He said the contact group on Bosnia, made up of Russia, the United States, France, Germany and Britain must "adopt their position to the developments, which are real, in Serbia."

Calling for international observers to be deployed on the border between Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to monitor the embargo decreed by Belgrade against its fellow Serbs, might "create additional difficulties" for Serbia President Slobodan Milosevic, the minister said.

"For now, we must try to back authorities in Belgrade rather than to make more problems, since they have enough," he added.

The Romanian economy is strongly linked to that of Serbia. It estimates the embargo has cost it \$7 billion in lost income since beginning in June 1992.

Mr. Melescanu said U.N. troops could purchase their supplies in the countries neighbouring the former Yugoslavia in order to help these economies.

Bucharest also wants the international community to set up a system of direct compensation for countries affected by the embargo.

"Economic sanctions have become a very important instrument of politics. They even tend to replace military action. If one wants this instrument to function, there must be a system of compensations," the minister said.

But he said he opposed lifting arms embargo against the former Yugoslavia since this increased the risk of the war there escalating.

Western hostages plead for end to bombardment

PHNOM PENH (R) — Three Westerners held hostage by Khmer Rouge guerrillas have again pleaded for the Cambodian Army to stop shelling their jungle prison, saying there was little chance of their release if the bombardment continued.

Now into their sixth week as hostages, the three made their latest appeal in a 15-minute video recording made last Wednesday and obtained by Reuters on Friday.

Briton Mark Slater, Australian David Wilson and Frenchman Jean-Michel Braquet looked thin but otherwise well in the recording, which was made at Vine Mountain, a rebel stronghold 150 km south of Phnom Penh.

Mr. Slater, 28, from Northamptonshire, said army shelling of the area had prevented their release.

"We understood the deal was going down to pay the ransom on the 30th (August), but the bombing continued," he said. "If the bombing doesn't stop we'll never get out of here. It seems the bombing is directed at us," he added.

But the government, which denies shelling the camp but is trying to sever supply lines into Vine Mountain, was still optimistic on Friday of the hostages' release.

First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh said in a statement that negotiations with the guerrillas were "nearly reaching a happy ending."

Two artillery explosions could be clearly heard during the video recording.

"I plead with you to stop the bombing. (It is) day in, day out — very frightening for all of us, all the farmers and local people here. That's just the way it is," said Wilson, 29, from Melbourne.

"This person said please stop the bombings," said 27-year-old Braquet, gesturing to an off-camera guerrilla. "For you to pay the ransom, it will be easy then."

The three Westerners showed the camera waist-deep trenches they used every day to shelter from the shelling. Mr. Braquet, from Roquebrun Cap Martin, wore a traditional Cambodian head scarf.

Army units have encircled the stronghold. The government says 10 guerrillas have defected and over 1,000 local villagers abandoned the area.

The Western hostages, in a letter accompanying the video and addressed to "our three governments," appealed for supplies of vitamin C, rice, dried beef, fish, and tins of condensed milk and Mr. Wilson and haemorrhoid cream for Mr. Wilson.

Jiang Zemin praises better ties with Europe

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin arrived Friday for a four-day summit expected to strengthen ties with Russia.

"Together with Russian leaders we shall discuss the roots of future development of our good-neighbourly and friendly relations, taking into account that we are on the threshold of the 21st century," Mr. Jiang told reporters at Moscow's international airport.

During the summit, Mr. Jiang and Russian President Boris Yeltsin are expected to sign an agreement that neither country will target the other with its strategic nuclear missiles.

China and Russia are to sign a border accord that puts to rest most of the two countries' territorial disputes and they are to discuss ways to bolster ballooning bilateral trade.

"For China, Russia is the largest neighbouring country," Mr. Jiang said, in remarks reported by the Interfax news agency. "Between the people of the two countries, there is a traditional friendship, and, for China, the relations with the Russian Federation have always occupied a very important place in the country's foreign policy."

Mr. Jiang, on his first visit to Europe since becoming president, plans to travel to Ukraine and France after leaving Russia.

Relations between Moscow and Beijing have not always gone smoothly. An alliance based on their shared allegiance to communism broke down in the early 1960s and the two sides feuded until the late 1980s.

An official rapprochement was formally reached in 1989, and trade and other ties have expanded since the signing of a joint declaration in 1992.

China's communist leaders were dismayed by the collapse of the Soviet Communist empire, and they have rejected Russia's subsequent democratic reforms as unsuitable for their own developing nation.

Russian reformers issued a statement Friday calling on Mr. Yeltsin to press China for "an initiative on political amnesty in China (and) on ending the persecution of Chinese dissidents."

"We are deeply concerned that thousands of political prisoners are now being held in Chinese prisons," said the statement by the Democratic Russia Movement.

"We have not forgotten the tragic events that took place on Tiananmen Square in June 1989," the statement said.

Mr. Jiang's first stop is the first visit by a Chinese president since Mao Zedong was in Moscow in 1957. The tour will also be a chance for Mr. Jiang to assert himself as a world leader and successor to patriarch Deng Xiaoping.

"Relations between China and Europe have seen important progress this year," Mr. Jiang told reporters before leaving. "The two sides understand that the development of relations is in their fundamental interests."

But he also emphasised the traditional warning of Chinese leaders that political differences are always likely.

"There is not, and there must not be, a single model for democracy in the world," he declared. "Some people think democracy does not exist when the Western model is not copied. This is not an objective point of view."

Mr. Jiang, who is also Communist Party secretary general and commander-in-chief of the military, is going to Europe for the first time since becoming head-of-state last year.

Accompanied by Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and head of the state plan commission Chen Jinhua, he will be in Russia till Sept. 6.

Relations with Russia have improved markedly since President Boris Yeltsin visited Beijing in 1992.

During Mr. Jiang's stay in Moscow, the two presidents are expected to sign an accord to stop pointing ballistic missiles at each other. They are also to deal with frontier disputes and sign trade accords.

Sales of Russian arms to China have flourished since a visit last year by Russian Defence Minister, General Pavel Grachev.

The Chinese president will spend two days in the Ukraine before an important final stage of the tour in France from Sept. 8 to 12.

His job there will be to set the seal on the rapprochement with France.

Lemonade gives Australia lemons bite

SYDNEY (R) — A new Australian lemonade about to be launched overseas has put the bite back into lemons. Two dogs lemonade is 4.2 per cent alcohol which is as strong as most Australian beers. Pub owner Duncan McGillivray of Adelaide said two dogs, served with ice and a slice of lemon, is a good alternative to light beer and bridges the gap between beer and wines and spirits as well as the gender gap. "It's a lovely drink for a nice sunny day, really refreshing," Mr. McGillivray told Reuters on Friday. "It tastes a bit like bitter lemon but with more bite and with a definite adult flavour." Mr. McGillivray said he came up with the idea of brewing lemons after a neighbour complained that half of the lemons in his orchard went to waste as they were either too big or too small for the market. "For about three months I messed around with lemons, skins and all, and finally came up with the right flavour," he said. "Everyone from 18 years old to 80 seems to like it."

London zoo to return hairy rhinoceros

JAKARTA (AFP) — London Zoo will return several pairs of rare Sumatran Rhinoceros to Indonesia after efforts to breed them in Britain failed, a senior wildlife official said here Wednesday. Sujadi Hartono, Indonesian director-general for forest exploitation and nature conservation, said they will be returned during the 1995-96 fiscal year beginning in April next year. He told Antara news agency that the small, hairy two-horned Sumatran rhinos, will be returned to their natural habitat in the south Sumatran province of Lampung. The rhinos were sent to London several years ago but all breeding attempts failed. Hartono did not say where the rhinos originally came from, but a joint British-Indonesian project in 1985 sought to catch four pairs from jungles in southern Sumatra in a bid to ensure the survival of the endangered species. The Sumatran rhino, or Dicerorhinus sumatrensis, is Asia's smallest rhinoceros. It lives in the jungles of Sumatra. Two other types of the same species can also be found in small pockets of jungles in Burma, Assam, Malaysia and Kalimantan. Officials estimate that there are about 400 Sumatran rhinos left, but sightings of the nocturnal animal have been rare in the past few years.

Australian police announce record heroin haul

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian police announced Wednesday they had seized a record 123 kilograms of heroin with an estimated street value of around \$190 million in the northern city of Darwin. A combined drug enforcement unit first seized 58 blocks of heroin weighing 40.7 kilograms and arrested eight people from a Thai fishing vessel on July 13, a police statement said. "Shortly after that, a further 113 blocks of heroin, weighing 82.7 kilograms, was located by police divers and forms a part of the same consignment," it added. "The total weight of 123 kilograms is Australia's largest bulk seizure of heroin with a wholesale price of about 120 million Australian dollars (\$89 million) and a street value of about \$240 million," said the statement. A police spokesman in Darwin, capital of the Northern Territory, said the second haul of heroin was found at the bottom of the harbour. The statement by the combined drug enforcement unit — comprising Northern Territory police, federal police and customs officers — said the second haul could not be publicised earlier because of operational reasons. The eight people arrested on the fishing vessel had been charged with importing the original 58 blocks of heroin and would also be charged with the additional seizure, the statement said. "The investigation continues with assistance to the combined drug enforcement unit from the narcotics suppression bureau of the Thai Police and liaison officers from the Australian Federal Police stationed throughout Southeast Asia," it added.

U.S., North Korea to talk about opening diplomatic offices

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has agreed to talk North Korea next week about establishing diplomatic offices in the two capitals. It is a major step towards formal relations with the hardline Communist government.

That would depend, however, on reaching an overall agreement on North Korea's suspect nuclear programme, which, after more than a year of quarrelling, the Pyongyang government pledged in July to freeze and partially open to international inspectors.

Administration officials said Thursday the talks beginning on Sept. 10, apparently the first ever in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, would concern arrangements for setting up liaison offices there and in Washington. Establishing mail service, renting office space and real estate laws will be on the agenda.

Technical experts from the two sides will meet the same day in Berlin on replacing a five-megawatt experimental reactor that is part of North Korea's nuclear programme with new technology that is considered less dangerous.

The Berlin meeting also will deal with ways to safely store spent fuel from the North Korean reactor and to temporarily provide North Korea with energy during a period of conversion to light-water reactors. Berlin was chosen because of Germany's expertise in technology, officials said.

On Sept. 23, senior negotiators will reconvene in Geneva to pursue North Korea's quest for recognition and economic ties with the West and the U.S. drive to halt a programme considered a potential danger to South Korea, Japan and other Asian countries.

Liaison offices provide for diplomatic contact. The Nixon administration, for instance, established liaison offices to end decades of icy distance from China. Subsequently, the Carter administration established full ties with Beijing.

"We don't attach symbolic significance" to the Pyongyang meeting, U.S. State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said. But he said he would acknowledge that North Korea might view the meeting in that light.

Also, Mr. McCurry said

opening liaison offices was "conditional on an overall agreement" on North Korea's nuclear programme.

In Edgartown, Mass., where President Clinton is on vacation, White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said, "These are simply technical talks that would allow us to be prepared in case that somewhere down the line a decision is made to move forward in establishing a liaison office or something else. 'Should the decision be made, this is... a step to make sure that we're ready... This is not any kind of a diplomatic conversation. It's technical discussions," she said.

Although North Korea has promised to freeze its nuclear programme, it has not agreed to permit international inspection of two suspect waste sites that could provide valuable clues to what the North Koreans have been doing with spent fuel, U.S. intelligence experts are convinced one or two nuclear weapons were produced.

The North Koreans have insisted they need their experimental reactor for energy purposes. But the United States and some Asian nations suspect it is part of an

ambitious programme to develop nuclear weapons.

The United States and North Korea held their last round of talks in August in Geneva. It was disclosed subsequently that the reactor at the Yongbyon complex might be restarted if a deal was not struck for two western-style replacements.

State Department officials said Asian and European governments would be asked to share the estimated \$4 billion cost of two replacement light-water reactors.

The agreement in Geneva maintained the freeze pledged by North Korea in July and monitored by International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors. It did not resolve the disposition of 8,000 nuclear fuel rods, nor provide access to two suspect waste sites.

However, North Korea said it would maintain its commitment to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, which is designed to restrict the spread of nuclear weapons technology and provides for international inspection of suspect programmes. It also pledged to work to denuclearise the Korean Peninsula.

Lemonade gives Australia
lemons bite

SYDNEY (R) — A new Australian lemonade about to bite back into lemons. The alcohol which is as strong as most Australian beers, the owner Duncan McGilivray of Adelaide said two lemons served with ice and a shot of lemon, is a good alternative to fight beer and bridges the gap between beer and wine and spirits as well as the gender gap. "It's a lovely drink for a nice sunny day, really refreshing," Mr. McGilivray told Reuters on Friday. "It tastes a bit like bitter lemon but with more flavour." Mr. McGilivray said he came up with the idea of brewing lemons after a neighbour complained that half of the lemons in his orchard went to waste as they were either too big or too small for the market. "For about three months I messed around with lemons, skins and all, and finally came up with the right flavour," he said. "Everyone from 18 years old to 80 seems to like it."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Jiang renews invitation to Clinton to visit China

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin renewed Friday an invitation to U.S. President Bill Clinton to visit China. "We have already invited President Clinton to visit China, so if he decides to come we will accord him a warm reception," Mr. Jiang told reporters before leaving China for a 10-day European tour. Mr. Clinton's first official visit to China could take place towards the end of the year, according to diplomatic circles, with Foreign Minister Qian Qichen laying the groundwork for the visit when he goes to Washington at the end of September. The two leaders are expected to meet in Jakarta in November at a summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. Sino-American relations entered a "new era," according to both sides, after Mr. Clinton in May renewed China's most favoured nation trading status unconditionally, de-linking trade from China's human rights record. The new policy of commercial engagement began this week with the visit to China of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown during which U.S. firms signed contracts worth around \$7 billion. Mr. Jiang left Beijing Friday for Russia, the first leg of a tour which will also take him to Ukraine and France.

Murayama holds telephone talks with Asian leaders

TOKYO (AFP) — The leaders of Japan, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam on Friday agreed by telephone to maintain close ties to ensure peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, officials said here. Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama thanked Philippine President Fidel Ramos, Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong for their warm welcome during his recent visit to their countries, the officials said. The Japanese premier returned home Tuesday from an eight-day Southeast Asian tour to the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore. Mr. Murayama is also due to talk Malaysian Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad by telephone later in the day, the officials added.

U.S. to list 9 nations as unsafe for air travel

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. air safety officials announced Friday that airlines from nine nations have been barred from serving the United States because of inadequate safety oversight. NBC News and the Washington Post reported. They said the countries which did not meet international standards were Belize, the Dominican Republic, Gambia, Ghana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay and Zaire. The countries have been told by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that their aircraft cannot fly to the United States unless the safety deficiencies are corrected, the Washington Post said. Four countries have been put on a conditional list to enable their planes to serve the United States under heightened FAA scrutiny: Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala and the Netherlands Antilles, the Post said. NBC News said the safety assessments were based on such factors as airport safety, air traffic control and government aviation regulations.

Khmer Rouge says royalists have no power

BANGKOK (AFP) — Cambodia's Khmer Rouge guerrillas claimed Friday that the royalist faction has lost the struggle for power in Phnom Penh to the rival faction backed by Vietnam. In a broadcast monitored in Bangkok, Khmer Rouge radio said that Hun Sen and his Cambodian People's Party (CPP) "has complete control" over Prince Norodom Ranariddh and his supporters. Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen are co-prime ministers in a coalition government formed in 1993 after United Nations-sponsored general elections. The CPP held office in Phnom Penh after Vietnam invaded Cambodia and ousted the Khmer Rouge from power in 1979. The royalists and the Khmer Rouge waged a guerrilla war until the Paris peace accords of 1991. "The puppet Hun Sen leads Prince Ranariddh around by the nose, ...the puppet Chea Sim has sole control over parliament, the puppet Harheng has taken full control of the police and the puppet Tea Banh, Pol Sarocum and Ke Kimyan have control over all armed forces," the radio said. It held that power in the provinces and down to the village level was in the hands of the pro-Vietnamese, "and thus no one can chase the Vietnamese out of Cambodia." A controversial immigration law adopted recently in Phnom Penh was a ploy by the pro-Vietnamese CPP and had triggered "crocodile tears" over the law's supposed threat to Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia, the radio said.

Cost of Haiti military invasion put at \$427m

NEW YORK (AFP) — A U.S.-led military invasion of Haiti would cost around \$427 million, the Pentagon has estimated, the New York Times reported Friday. The Times quoted one Defense Department official as saying that the first three weeks of an invasion would cost \$55 million to cover transportation, food and water, logistics and combat pay for an initial force of 12,000 soldiers. The goal would be to restore to power in 10 days Jean-Bertrand Aristide who was ousted from power by the Haitian military in a bloody Sept. 30, 1991, coup and who now lives in exile in Washington. Pentagon cost experts then say that it would take an extra \$372 million over the next seven months with 2,500 to 3,000 U.S. troops remaining at the end of that period. Once order had been restored, a U.N.-led force of 6,000 troops would replace the initial invasion force, the Times quoted Pentagon sources as saying. U.S. administration officials have so far been reluctant to put a price on an invasion of Haiti although they have left no doubt that it will go ahead if the Haitian military refuses to step down. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said Thursday that U.S. troops would be sent to Haiti even if the transition is peaceful to form a large part of an international force protecting Mr. Aristide and the restored government. Pentagon officials said a total of \$200 million had already been spent by the United States in rescuing the thousands of Haitians who have taken to small boats in a bid to flee to the United States and then building holding camps for them.

Constitutional convention reconvenes in Rangoon

BANGKOK (AFP) — Some 700 delegates turned out Friday as a Constitutional Convention in Rangoon resumed work on hammering out a new charter for Burma. The convention, which had been in recess the last five months, is working to produce a new constitution for Burma that will restore democracy to the impoverished Southeast Asian nation but maintain a leading role in government for the military. Roughly one-third of the delegates were hand-picked by the ruling junta and are committed to supporting a continued leadership role for the military. Another third are members of the opposition political parties, including the main National League for Democracy (NLD), while the rest represent various segments of Burmese society ranging from ethnic minorities to labour unions. Critics charge that all of the delegates are attending the convention on the sufferance of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), as the junta is formally called, and that even its supposed opponents have offered only tepid criticism of the high-orchestrated convention sessions. The proposed charter would make Burma a republic with seven regions and seven states of equal status, under an executive presidency. But one section already agreed on would keep popular dissident Aung San Suu Kyi from becoming Burma's leader because she has lived abroad during the last 20 years and is married to a foreigner. British academic Michael Aris. Aung San Suu Kyi began her sixth year of house arrest in Rangoon in July. The convention first convened in January 1993. There is no deadline for it to complete its work.

Protestant militants
not observing truce

BELFAST (AFP) — Protestant militants on Friday claimed the first murder since the IRA ceasefire while unionist fears that London cut a secret deal to obtain the truce were heightened when four republican prisoners were moved from Britain to Northern Ireland.

Gerry Adams, president of the Sinn Féin political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), meanwhile demanded the withdrawal of British troops and police from Catholic areas of the province.

Mr. Adams said: "Crown forces, including the RUC (Royal Ulster Constabulary) are not acceptable in nationalist areas." However, loyalist paramilitaries made it clear they were not going to observe a truce in the immediate future.

Protestant loyalist Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) told local radio stations that they had killed "republican militant" John O'Hanlon less than a day after the ceasefire took effect and just after news leaked that four republican prisoners had been transferred from Britain to Northern Ireland.

Police said the victim, in his early 20s and the father of one, was working with a colleague on a car at around 11:00 p.m. (2200 GMT) Thursday when two gunmen appeared through a hedge and fired five shots.

Britain fears that the loyalists, who want to stay British,

could conclude the transfer is part of a deal made with the IRA, and could feel excluded from the peace process. Such transfers have been a key demand of the banned IRA.

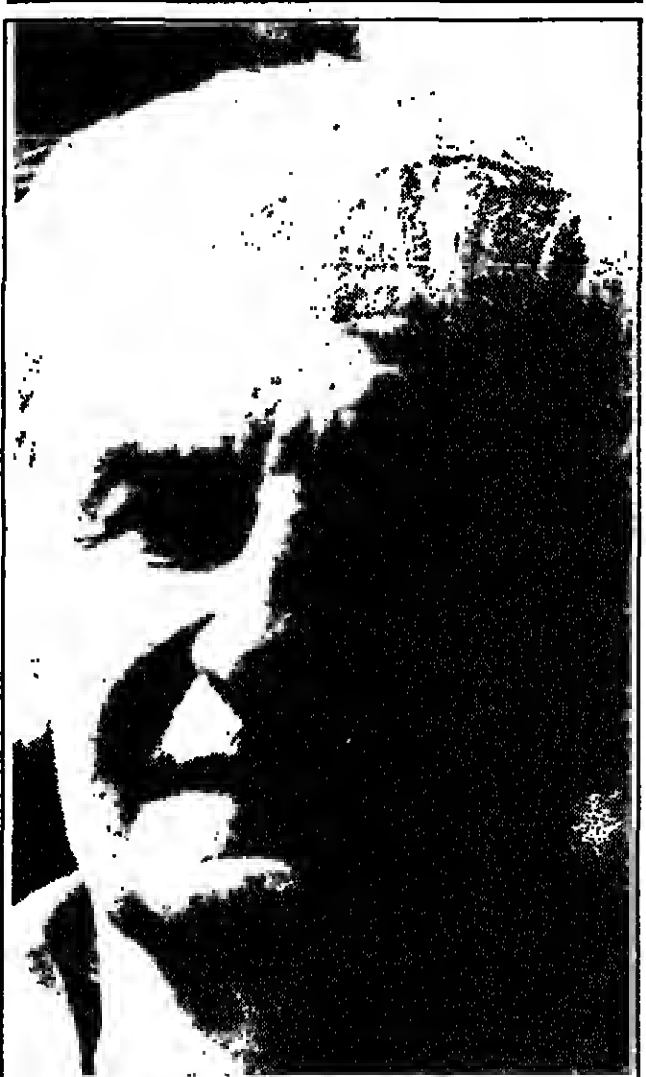
However, Reverend Roy Magee, known to have had contacts in the past with the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) — the Protestant community's two main paramilitary factions — said they were studying "very, very seriously" the IRA ceasefire statement but were unlikely to give their response until next week.

They are going to examine this declaration and they might need some assistance to find out what it really means and if a package was offered (by the British government) in exchange for a ceasefire," Mr. Magee said.

"If they are satisfied there is no threat to Northern Ireland's position within the U.K., I would be hopeful they would respond positively," he added.

He was referring to reports that the British government might consider changing the 1920 Government of Ireland Act which asserts sovereignty over the province making this conditional on the wish of its citizens. This change would be bitterly contested by Unionists and right-wing Conservative politicians.

In return Ireland would agree to hold a referendum on renouncing its territorial claim to Northern Ireland.



Files picture dated May 22, 1982, of British director Lindsay Anderson, 71 who died Aug. 30 in France during his vacations. Anderson won in 1969 the Golden Palm at the Cannes film festival with his film "If" with Malcolm McDowell in the lead part (AFP photo)

Mitterrand urged 'understanding'
of youthful rightist allegiance

PARIS (AFP) — French President Francois Mitterrand has uncovered sensitive areas of his right-wing past in a book published this week that gives extensive details of his career with the collaborationist Vichy regime during World War II.

In "Une Jeunesse Française" (A Frenchman's Youth) penned by journalists Pierre Pean, Mitterrand asks for understanding for past mistakes, explaining that as a young man he was marked by his provincial upbringing and by the prevailing attitudes of the time.

"In troubled times, it is difficult to make choices, especially when you are young," he told Pean. "It's unfair to judge men on errors which can be explained by the atmosphere of the period."

The book traces Mr. Mitterrand's prewar links and sympathies with the French nationalist right, but notes that the future president never joined the pro-fascist Cagoule (Hood) organisation or the extreme nationalist Action Française.

Illustrated by a previously unpublished photograph of Mr. Mitterrand with Vichy leader Philippe Petain, taken in October 1942, the book spans the period from 1934 to 1947, ranging from Mr. Mitterrand's arrival in Paris as a young Catholic to his appointment as the youngest

Bloodstain on IRA truce
fuels backlash fear

Two bullet holes in the windscreen of Catholic John McNabs car, is the scene of the first sectarian killing since the IRA announcement of ceasefire after twenty

five years of troubles in Northern Ireland. The incident happened in the Catholic area of Antrim, North Belfast (AFP photo)

BELFAST (R) — Northern Ireland's new dreams of peace were jolted by the stark reality of sectarian hatred on Friday after gunmen killed a Catholic in a bid to provoke the IRA into breaking its historic ceasefire.

Police said the Thursday night killing bore all the hallmarks of an attack by the shadowy Protestant killer gangs which fear that peace on the Irish Republican Army's terms would threaten the province's British status.

The first bloodstain on the ceasefire coincided with a furious row over the transfer to the province from Britain of an IRA activist who was jailed for plotting to blow up Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and other members of the British cabinet in a spectacular bombing a decade ago.

The Belfast killing realised the worst fears of church leaders and politicians who believe Protestant extremists will kill Catholics at random to goad the IRA into retaliation, shattering the Republicans' public commitment to peace.

Protestant extremists have hinted at vengeance and warned of civil war over the IRA's decision to halt its 25-year armed struggle against British rule in Northern Ireland to seek progress in the political arena alone.

Britain has insisted that its transfer of IRA prisoners to the province was not a reward for the guerrilla truce. But "unionists" bitterly opposed to the IRA's goal of a united Ireland still suspect it is the first sign of "appeasement".

Derek Lewis, the British prison chief who approved Thursday's transfer of the four IRA inmates, tried to calm the row on Friday, saying the move was months in the making and was not "politically motivated".

But this was unlikely to stanch the suspicions of a secret "sell-out" of the province's Protestant majority community that lay behind Thursday night's bloodshed.

The first sectarian killing since the ceasefire took effect on the stroke of midnight on Wednesday happened in a

mixed Catholic-Protestant neighbourhood of Belfast.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. But the outlawed Ulster Freedom Fighters admitted early on Friday they were behind a second attack overnight on a Catholic taxi driver, who escaped injury in the shooting.

Alban Maginnis, a local councillor for the moderate Nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, said the fatal shooting of the 22-year-old Catholic was deliberately designed to provoke the IRA into breaking its ceasefire.

"It is all very characteristic of previous loyalist attacks in that area," he said.

The killing, the row over the prisoner transfer and British doubts about whether the IRA move amounted to the permanent ceasefire it needs before opening a full dialogue with the IRA's political wing all combined to dampen the initial euphoria.

A former conservative minister badly injured in the 1984 IRA bombing of a party conference in the resort town

of Brighton condemned the decision to move the IRA prisoners closer to their families in Northern Ireland.

"The timing of this move makes it look like an early reward for the IRA or an act of crass political incompetence," said former Conservative Party politician Sir Norman Tebbit.

His anger was echoed by William Trimble of the province's biggest "Unionist" Party.

"How can we persuade anybody that they are not being sold out, when we have the sort of crass decision which was taken yesterday by an idiot who doesn't seem to understand the political sensitivity that he's dealing with," he said in a radio interview.

One of the transferred prisoners, Patrick Magee, is serving a life term for the Brighton bombing which killed five people and injured 30. A second man, Gerard McDonnell, was sentenced to life on charges of helping Magee plan his bombing spree in British resorts.

British convict transfer sparks row over IRA truce

LONDON (R) — The transfer to a Northern Ireland jail of IRA prisoners, including one who tried to kill Margaret Thatcher and her cabinet, sparked charges on Friday that Britain had struck a secret deal to win a truce with the IRA.

Protestant unionists also said extremists may have been so angered by Thursday's move that they retaliated by shooting dead a Catholic man in Belfast in the first sectarian killing since the Irish Republican Army declared a ceasefire.

But prison chief Derek Lewis, target of Prime Minister John Major's fury over the calmness of the transfer's timing, refused to resign and insisted the moves were

not politically motivated.

The man convicted of trying to kill Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. Major's predecessor as premier, and three inmates were transferred from the British mainland on Thursday, the day the IRA began a truce in its 25-year guerrilla campaign against Britain.

"What a time to reward terror," trumpeted the headline in The Daily Mail.

The transfers inflamed tension in Belfast, where hundreds of people gathered in the Protestant Shankill road on Thursday night to accuse the government of a sell-out.

Protestant politician William Ross said the transfer could have been partly to blame for the death of a Catholic man, shot dead by

in trying to kill Mrs. Thatcher at the Conservative Party conference in 1984.

Derek Lewis, director general of the prison service, said the transfers, for a period of six months, were part of a programme drawn up in June.

Ministers approved the programme but were not consulted on the timing of the transfers, he told BBC Radio.

"These transfers had been announced beforehand. They were in no way politically motivated," Mr. Lewis said.

He said he had no plans to resign over the affair, but added: "To the extent that these developments have caused problems, I very much regret that."

Georgians, Abkhazians agree efforts on refugees

GENEVA (R) — Georgia and leaders from rebel Abkhazia agreed on Friday to make "best efforts" to complete preparations for the return of Georgian refugees who fled the rebel region in fighting last year.

The Abkhazians, who are seeking a form of independence from the ex-Soviet Transcaucasian republic, also agreed to attend a session of a quadripartite commission on the refugee issue to be held in the Russian city of Sochi on Sept. 6.

The agreement was formalised in a statement signed by the two sides after three days of talks in Geneva, one of several centres where negotiations aimed at bringing peace in the region are held under United Nations mediation.

U.N. mediator Edouard Brunner of Switzerland told reporters at the signing ceremony that he had the commitment of both delegations that they would work "in a positive spirit" in Sochi to get an official refugee return on track.

Agreement on the return, which could eventually involve the between 250,000 and 300,000 people who fled when Abkhazian forces seized full control of the region a year ago, was first reached in April.

But implementation of a first stage involving up to 80,000 from the border Gali region has been stalled in squabbling over how it would be organised, and the Abkhazians boycotted a meeting of

the quadripartite commission in Sochi last month.

The commission includes Georgia, the Abkhazians, Russia and representatives of the U.N.'s UNHCR refugee agency which is planning and will supervise the return.

A small U.N. observer mission was reinforced in June by a 2,500-strong Russian peacekeeping force authorised by the world body who have been deployed along the Inguri River, which forms the Abkhaz border with the rest of Georgia.

Despite Friday's limited agreement, Mr. Brunner said accord on an overall political settlement still appeared a long way off. "The positions of the two sides are rather far apart," the Swiss diplomat

declared.

Mutual suspicions and passions roused by the bitter fighting in 1992 and 1993 — in which thousands of people were killed and both sides accused each other of atrocities and cultural genocide — made a settlement difficult, he added.

"But a return of refugees and effective peacekeeping will make a good contribution to achieving a political agreement," Mr. Brunner said.

The two sides are due to return to Geneva in the second week on October to continue talks on the future relationship between Abkhazia and the rest of Georgia. U.N. officials say total independence for Abkhazia is excluded.

Major quake hits off northern California coast

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A major earthquake struck off the Northern California coast Thursday, shaking up residents from central California to southern Oregon, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

An earthquake measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale hit in the Pacific Ocean 145 km west of Eureka, on the northern California coast, said Frank Baldwin, a spokesman for the national earthquake information centre in Golden, Colorado.

The quake off Eureka, a fishing and lumber town 400 kms north of San Francisco, was felt at 8:16 a.m. PDT (11:16 a.m. EDT), he said.

He said there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage although the quake was felt as far south as Fresno in central California and as far north as southern Oregon.

The National Earthquake Information Centre said that earlier reports from California officials of three separate major quakes in the area were incorrect.

The seismographic station at the University of California at Berkeley also said there was no major quake, which it measured at 6.8 on the Richter scale. It said the main quake was being followed by many smaller after-

anything," said Petrolia Postmaster Jackie Roscoe.

The old Petrolia post office was destroyed in the 1992 quake and Mr. Roscoe has been operating the town's mail facility out of a temporary trailer arrangement ever since.

Alarmed residents of Sacramento and Palo Alto called into a San Francisco radio station to say they had felt a strong rolling motion lasting some 30 seconds.

While there was no immediate reports of damage, the California Office of Emergency Services said it was sending experts to Humboldt County just in case.

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Hope for Ireland too

THE DECLARATION last week of a "complete cessation" of violence in Northern Ireland by the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA) may have taken some countries and parties by surprise, but the ceasefire fits quite well with the spirit of the new international era. The historic unilateral end of hostilities by the IRA comes on the heels of similar moves by other "liberation" movements across the world, notably in the Middle East, Latin America and Africa, where the military option was superseded by political processes aiming to resolve the conflicts in question.

It is true that every such positive development was met with opposition from splinter and extremist groups, which promised to fight on. No wonder then that loyalist paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland were swift in rejecting the offer of peace by the IRA and promised to continue their military struggle.

The combined Loyalist Military Command — the umbrella group, which includes the outlawed Ulster Freedom Fighters and the Ulster Volunteer Force, is obviously not comfortable with the positive development as it might prefer the worn-out methods of the past to frustrate the political ends of the IRA. The killing of a North-Irish Catholic man Thursday in the wake of the IRA announcement of a ceasefire came as further evidence that opposition to the peace process in Northern Ireland is not about to lay down its arms, something which resembles the fate of the peace process in this region of the world and elsewhere, where extremist forces appear to have vested interests in the perpetuation of the armed struggle.

The 25-year-old armed conflict in Northern Ireland has claimed the lives of no less than 3,000 people and left some 36,000 injured or maimed. Being in essence a sectarian strife, the violence was particularly bloody and vicious. The futility of this religious and political war waged by both sides of the fence was bound to end at the appropriate international and regional time. The international climate became favourable to the termination of hostilities when the new international order consolidated its grip on international and regional theatres. Last December's Anglo-Irish declaration, which offered the IRA's political wing, Sinn Féin, a place in the peace process, provided also the setting within which the IRA found room for manoeuvring without losing face.

We in the Middle East cannot but take comfort from the fact that the steps towards peace in the Middle East are being emulated elsewhere in the world. We certainly hope that it is time for the Irish and other strife-ridden people around the world to play their own peace.

PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour expressed the view that the coming U.N. population conference in Cairo is pointless now that the Vatican as well as the leadership of the Islamic World have condemned it and called for its boycott. Perhaps Egypt's insistence on hosting the conference is aimed at proving that the country enjoys security, but this is bound to backfire because the extremists would see in the Christian-Islamic refusal of such a conference an opportunity to escalate their opposition to it by every possible means, said Taber Al Adwan. The organisers are working against the will of the religious leaders whose words are heeded by the common people who are not likely to support the conference's resolutions or recommendations, he wrote. But, he said, one has to admit that the Third World, including the Arab and Islamic countries, continue to face hunger and other economic ills due to the large size of their population. Not only thousands die because of starvation in these countries but also their nations are bound to lose independence the moment they seek Western help, he added. The writer said that there must be other means for tackling the population explosion problem that would be acceptable to religion and the cultural traditions and conforming to morals and ethics.

BASSAM EMOUSH, a columnist in Al Ra'i, supported calls made by political parties and the needy people for the Ministry of Education to impose contributions at the level of the Ministry of Education for the construction of schools, said the writer, who is also a member of Parliament. The country is facing economic difficulties, the income of the poor families is barely sufficient for subsistence and the cost of living is so high in Jordan that what was known to be the middle class has disappeared, said the writer.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Kellani

Linking up with expatriates

AMID INTENSIVE moves in the country to create an environment more conducive for foreign investment, one of the main factors that should not be overlooked is the role of expatriates.

In the mid-1980s, His Majesty King Hussein himself took the lead in emphasising the role of the expatriates in this effort and launched a process that was designed to bring about stronger links between the Kingdom and its sons living abroad. After an initial round of excitement, the initiative lagged behind, particularly in the aftermath of the economic problems that confronted Jordan in the late 80s.

Indeed, those moves, launched by King Hussein and closely followed up by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and senior officials went a long way in encouraging many expatriates to adopt a new look towards their homeland. For many, it might only have meant planning a visit to Jordan from whatever corner of the globe they were in but it was a strong start.

Officials initially worked to encourage this emerging relationship between the Kingdom and Jordanian expatriates. Eventually, however, these efforts came to a halt.

It was also clear that expatriates cannot be expected to invest in their home country for the sake of investment. There has always been definitely an interest and this sentiment had to be exploited.

Today, in the wake of the dramatic breakthroughs in Jordan's quest for a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, prospects are excellent for relaunching the effort to attract Jordanian expatriate investments along the same lines that are applicable to foreign investments.

In addition, we could offer a series of added incentives to our expatriates to invest in their homeland. It is very much within reasonable hope that we would be successful if we put in the right effort in the right direction.

Granted, a large number of expatriates has returned home in the wake of the Gulf crisis. But they represent only a fraction of Jordanians settled abroad. The United States and the rest of Americas as well as European countries are the adopted homes for several thousand Jordanians, a good part of whom are more likely than not interested in exploring and utilising chances for investment in and also building stronger links with their homeland in the bargain.

To put it simply, it is time for us to launch a fresh initiative to build stronger links with our people outside. The starting point of our efforts is clearly the information media. Today, the foreign media is in a frenzy trying to figure out when Jordan would sign a peace accord with Israel rather than when the Kingdom might be able to regain its rights and then sign a peace agreement. Of course, we cannot expect the foreign media to do our job for us. For them, sensationalism and groundbreaking news are the priority.

In this context, which definitely brings the focus on the role of our own media, one might ask the question: Do we know what is the estimated number of Jordanian expatriates who tune to the Arabic-language foreign channel (satellite) programmes of Jordan Television, or the frequencies of Jordan Radio targeted mainly at Jordanian expatriates and other Arabs?

Have we undertaken any effort to project through these channels the economic opportunities that Jordan offers in a situation of peace, security and stability? Or is it simply a matter of launching the channels, setting routine work and then forgetting about them, with no one bothering about follow-up work on developing them as a means for communications between Jordan and its people outside? We would like to think otherwise, but then we have to acknowledge that this is the reality.

An important role for an evolving CSCE

By John J. Maresca

WASHINGTON — At the Paris summit meeting of 1990, when the leaders of 36 states signed the Charter of Paris for a new Europe, hopes were high that the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) would form the basis for a new relationship among the nations of Europe and North America.

The CSCE played a key role in opening up Communist societies and ending the cold war. But in the messy lukewarm peace that has followed, the CSCE has slipped into obscurity.

It has suffered in part from overblown expectations. Political leaders and national bureaucracies, all wanted to load it with pet projects. Its core structure has remained weak and unable to manage these activities well. And the CSCE seemed unable to deal with Europe's most urgent security problems, in ex-Yugoslavia.

But it has been quietly building a record of useful innovation in the area of preventive diplomacy. It has shown it can help to head off the kinds of conflicts we have seen in the last few years; in this, it should be strengthened.

CSCE monitors were actively watching over the human rights of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo until the Serbian government judged them too effective



and asked them to leave. A CSCE mission was the first to arrive in Skopje, the capital of newly independent Macedonia. CSCE missions in Estonia and Latvia are helping to defuse tension between ethnic Russians and indigenous peoples.

A CSCE mission in Georgia is seeking a peaceful solution to the conflict in South Ossetia. The CSCE Minsk Group has created a face-to-face negotiating process to seek an end to the Nagorno-Karabakh war. The list goes on.

The CSCE can go places NATO cannot, because it wields no military threat and includes all the states of Europe, North America and the former Soviet Union on an equal basis.

It can shape its missions to suit specific situations, and its consensus procedures lend these missions credibility.

The CSCE has unique potential for an effective role in the newly indepen-

dent states of the former Soviet Union, since all are members and have signed on to its principles and procedures.

The CSCE, alone among international organisations, has accepted the challenge of bringing these distant regions into a real relationship with the international community and saving them from isolation, while helping promote CSCE values.

Preventive diplomacy is by definition tedious and low-key. But it is far cheaper than peacekeeping, reconstruction or war.

We need to strengthen this process. The traditional functions of the CSCE need not be downgraded. Its emphasis on human rights, openness, economic liberty, rule of law and democracy is more important than ever.

To perform effectively, the CSCE needs strong leadership and a more developed structure, and its operations should be con-

centrated in one place. The chairmanship of the CSCE rotates among member countries' foreign ministers on a one-year basis. But no foreign minister can give this job the attention it requires. Foreign ministers in the chairman role rarely even visit Vienna, the CSCE's main place of business.

The secretary-general position currently has only administrative responsibilities and no real authority. It cannot provide necessary leadership. The CSCE has virtually no permanent staff. Its institutions, and meetings are scattered all over Europe. These features should be corrected and the organisation's structure streamlined.

The next summit meeting of the CSCE, to be held in Budapest in early December, will provide an opportunity to strengthen the organisation and sharpen its focus on preventive diplomacy.

Leading CSCE member states need to propose steps that will consolidate the organisation's activities in one place under a full-time secretary-general of ministerial stature, and give that position the authority to guide the organisation effectively.

The writer former U.S. ambassador to the CSCE, is a guest scholar at the United States Institute of Peace. This comment is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

Russian games

The policy paper said the United States and Russia "must think about the harmonisation of the interests of our two countries in the international arms markets." It named Iran as a Russian sales target, even though Washington considers Iran the primary source of anti-Israel terrorism. It also called for U.S. help to "finance" Moscow's oil and gas sales to former Soviet republics, ignoring extortionate pipeline deals Russia has imposed on its neighbours in seeking to exercise economic dominance.

critics on Capitol Hill. It could also hurt U.S. relations with the Saudi monarchy, the key American ally in the Gulf, whose fear of political contamination from a truly democratic Yemen led to the financing of Russian warplanes.

Mr. Shumeiko came to Washington for one reason: to preach the gospel of partnership with the U.S. armed forces. His 14-page policy guideline proposed a virtual Russian-American condominium over peacekeeping, global arms sales and export of military and other technology to third countries. Once the target of Cocom, the West's export control mechanism, Moscow now wants to join it as an equal.

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also called for U.S. help to "finance" Moscow's oil and gas sales to former Soviet republics, ignoring extortionate pipeline deals Russia has imposed on its neighbours in seeking to exercise economic dominance.

Mr. Shumeiko stressed that "our peacekeeping activities have nothing in common with neo-imperial ambitions." But if the United States expects United Nations approval to invade sovereign states such as Haiti, Mr. Clinton must understand that "we have the same right to expect genuine support of our efforts to regulate conflicts" in the former Soviet Union. The document Mr. Shumeiko read from did not exclude the Baltic nations from Russian pressure tactics.

Partnership is possible only through a process of equilibrium of the corresponding forces of Russia and the United States," the paper asserted. Europe was not mentioned. To some U.S. officials, that sounds

like a Russian-American condominium. It was during Mr. Shumeiko's visit that Washington finally supported a U.N. resolution giving Russia's "peacekeeping" authority over Georgia and Abkhazia.

Mr. Shumeiko's approach to NATO's future will escalate German fears over a Moscow-Washington embrace at Europe's expense. His paper praised Mr. Clinton's Partnership for Peace, but also called the "transformation" of NATO to make it conform to "new conditions." That suggests a desire by Moscow to phase out the Western alliance and make it wither away, a terrifying prospect for Poland and other former Soviet satellites who spent the last half century under the Russian heel.

German Defence Minister Volker Ruhe explicitly stated German concerns over Russia and NATO in his landmark Berlin speech just before Mr. Clinton's visit there last month. Ruhe said Washington must state clearly that Russia cannot have a "deepened strategic partnership with the United States" and at the same time he brought into NATO.

Germany is a stumbling block to Mr. Yeltsin's courtship of Mr. Clinton. So are the sceptical members of Congress who talked to Mr. Shumeiko. But if President Clinton learns that Russian aircraft bombed for Saudi Arabia in far-off Yemen, even he might decide to slow the pace of American-Russian brotherhood.

THE WEEK IN PRINT King's European tour a major success

By Elia Nasrallah

THE LOCAL Arabic press addressed His Majesty The King's tour of European nations, the Middle East peace process, the situation in Iraq and domestic issues in its editorial coverage in the past week.

Al Ra'i daily said that King Hussein has achieved astounding success in his visits to Germany and France, where he sought support for the Kingdom's peace endeavours.

Jordan continues to maintain strong ties with the two European nations, which, the paper said, have spared no effort in securing aid to the country in times of need.

Tareq Mesarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that King Hussein has maintained strong relations with the European nations, which were not affected by the Gulf crisis and the other upheavals which the Middle East had witnessed over the years. The King's brief visits to France and Germany this week, said the columnist, were vital to keep these countries informed of the realities in the region and to ensure continued support for the Kingdom's peace endeavours.

Ahmad Al Mileh criticised U.S. President Bill Clinton for demanding from Arab states to normalise their relations with Israel and end their boycott of the Jewish state. The columnist, who writes for Al Ra'i daily, said while making these demands, the president is strengthening Israel's hand in the occupied lands and is placing Arab states on the list of countries encouraging terrorism. This does not help the cause of peace, neither does Washington's drive to secure and ensure its own selfish interest in the Arab World at the expense of the Arab Nation, said the writer.

Criticising the result of a survey conducted recently by the Centre of Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan about public support for peace with Israel, a writer in Al Dustour said that the method used and the presentation of the results were similar to those adopted by the official information services. Hisham Uzeizat said that these services have been exerting effort towards persuading the people of Jordan to

remains to be seen what Jordan would give up in return for peace.

Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour, attacked the Israeli government for trying to make it impossible for the Palestine National Authority to succeed in its mission.

The Israelis are blocking the path of the local Palestinian authority's drive to promote health, education, agricultural and tourists services and is pressuring the donor nations against providing assistance to the Palestinians, said the writer.

At the same time, the Israelis are escalating their drive to burden the local Palestinian authority with additional tasks in security and political matters with the aim of aborting the self-rule system, which the writer said, is a prelude to full independence.

Al Dustour daily said that Israel was working against the peace process through further manifestations of arrogance and repression in the West Bank in general and Hebron in particular.

Peace requires opening a new chapter of cooperation and co-existence but the Israelis are determined to keep the Palestinians away from the Al Ibrahim Mosque and allowing the Jews to pray at the shrine, thus deepening the hatred between the two sides, said the paper.

Commenting on the controversy revolving around the upcoming U.N. World Population Conference in Cairo, Fakhri Saleh, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the increase in the rate of the population on Earth is a chronic issue that must be tackled by the world community through dialogue and not through imposing Western nations' will on the poor countries.

The writer criticised U.S. Vice President Al Gore for linking continued Western aid to Third World nations with their acceptance of the coming conference's resolutions, saying that this is a form of pressure on the poor nations.

The right reply to calls for controlling the increase in population should be in the form of serious studies of needs of the poor countries and adoption of methods that could ensure sustainable development, said Huda Fakhouri, a columnist in Al Ra'i. The writer said that the Arabs and Muslims can by no means accept cultural and intellectual hegemony as it is currently sought by the Western powers.

Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, drew attention to the need for ending the sanctions on Iraq and for the Arab countries' responsibility to put an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Reports from UNICEF and other humanitarian and health organisations say infant mortality rates in Iraq are on the rise due to malnutrition and the spread of preventable diseases, said the writer.

The Arab states ought to make moves at the official and public levels to exercise pressure on the world community to end the sanctions, said the writer.

Abdullah Al Khatib, a columnist in Al Dustour, suggested that the Ministry of Education end long summer vacations and instead give the students short vacations spread over the year. The writer said that experiences of advanced nations have proved that short vacations and longer periods of work for the students enable them to become more competitive and

hard workers and can ensure their success in the future. A long summer vacation is a waste of time which said the writer, should be utilised in a manner that would be beneficial to the students and their communities at large.

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WEEK IN PRINT
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By Ella Nasrallah

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'An honourable cause needs honourable men'

By Abdul Qader Yassine

Hussein stood up and said "now we are all Feda'yeen". Palestinian representatives toured the Gulf area collecting funds. Palestinian women gave up their gold and jewellery for the cause. Palestinian employees donated 5-10 per cent of their salaries or more. Other Arab nationals were no less generous. The Palestinians have demonstrated to the whole world the feasibility of being united. Our people overcame differences, knew exactly what they enacted and stood proud, all for one and one for all. Unfortunately that revolutionary condition has never existed ever since. Every route leading to anything resembling that condition have so far proven elusive, except for the first three years of the intifada. The high tide of corruption reached there too, and wrapped its tentacles around the budding revolution and poisoned our hopes.

The pattern of decay

Instead of standing on one front against a well-defined enemy, the Palestinian resistance movement fractured along lines of personality, family, tribe, ideology and Arab sponsorship. Palestine itself fell in a foggy area of the mental picture. It was never mentioned in the final communiqué of many a meeting of the various liberation groups.

Slogans dominated the field of they do now on the walls of the West Bank. "Long live the revolutionary tactic that leads to a strategy," read one slogan I saw in a BBC report from Jerusalem last month. Unethical acts of nepotism, favouritism and basic greed ran uncontrolled at all levels; left, right and in the middle.

Governments, including the Israeli government, penetrated most, if not all Palestinian organisations. Some high-ranking PLO officers worked for Israel; yet some faced Israeli jets in southern Lebanon and were mown down in their prime. In his book "Israel's Lebanon War," Ze'ev Schiff, the defence editor of Ha'aretz, Israel's most prestigious daily, describes how a group of 60 Palestinian fighters, "some of them were so young as to be mere children," managed to stop an Israeli armoured battalion for four hours in southern Lebanon before being killed. Soon the days when the leaders came and visited their fighters in the field were gone. Now the top brass in the Palestinian movement lived in high-rise buildings in Beirut or Damascus or even in southern France.

Diplomacy was in vogue well before the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. The focus had shifted from the mission of liberating Palestine to a mission of "how can we get the Americans to talk to us?" The signposts on the road to Jerusalem began to fall one after another. The dream that was born at Al-Karamah will die — it seems — at Jericho across the river

from Al-Karamah.

First it was Palestine, a free, democratic, secular, Palestine; then it became the 1967 Palestine and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) buttons saying "25 years of occupation" (distributed in 1992), then "we will never go back to negotiations before all deportees are allowed to return (according to U.N. Security Council Resolution 799)" then "Jerusalem or bust" and now "Jericho and Gaza..."

This pattern was set in motion a very long time ago. Its execution has now become too obvious to hide. The hubbub has burst. The stench fills the air. Our leaders have reached the end of their tether. They are consumed, exhausted and must exit. They have achieved all they could. We have suffered as much as we could stand. They are not traitors. They are inept.

An honourable cause, like the Palestine question, needs honourable men and women.

What is to be done?

The current economic recession has affected all, the poor as well as the mighty. Banks and giant corporations have gone under. Heads of governments, ministers of finance, presidents of large corporations, have found themselves on the street. New trends in management have been discovered.

The focus is no longer on buying big machines, newer gadgets or even new markets. The focus has shifted on manpower, on the human factor, on the individual. Three months ago, Imperial Chemical Industries, one of the largest companies in England, paid £50 million for consultant fees. Their policy states that "employees are the most important asset we have."

Training programmes have been designed for all levels to reshape the character of each individual, to assign a role for each task, to hold someone accountable for every step, to judge managers and team leaders on results, not on activities or good intentions. As you surely know, the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

Mission Statements. Total Quality Management. Re-engineering the corporation are only a few of the terms in the new science of management. IBM, Ford, Shell, Dupont and even the White House (in which Yasser Arafat discovered "a new friend of the Palestinian people") are all engaging management consultant to sort their mess out. So, I said, why not Palestine? A junior officer in the American Embassy in Tunis or Cairo often advises the PLO. A juvenile delinquent writes about Palestine. A foreign journalist expresses himself on Jerusalem. In a nutshell the sanctity of our country has been defiled. And so, again, why not me? Here is what I think we should do:

1. We have to recognise and come to terms with the fact that we have lost round



one of the war with Israel and its sponsors. We must recognise that we are now negotiating the terms of surrender. Calling it by any other name will be "donkey-calling" at its worst, like calling Anwar Al-Sadat the "faithful president."

2. We have to define our mission succinctly and clearly. We have to define what exactly we want ultimately to achieve, then stick with it. A mission is the engine of the vehicle of any movement, organisation or the life of an individual. Mission provides direction, it arranges priorities and cuts through the fog of rhetoric. Mission is what people live and die for. Mission is what cements people to their leaders and to each other.

Theodor Herzl's mission

was simple: the "establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine within 50 years." That was it! Ten words, no music, no IFs, no BUTs. It had the answers to "what?", "who?", "where?" and to "when?". What was left to be answered was "how?". To answer "how?", a strategy was prepared with well-defined goals, responsibility, accountability and time schedules. And they (the Zionists) went to work. It was not easy for them either.

3. We must restructure the individual and, subsequently, the national character in relation to principles, not things or persons. In order to gain stability and begin recovery we must rebuild our moral/ethical foundation and modify our behaviour. Integrity, honesty and trust are among the basic principles we must reinstate in our life style. It is no longer sufficient for someone to say, for example, that he or she believes in God if that belief does not lead to action or is not reflected in his or her behaviour.

According to Blaise Pascal (1623-1662), "manners of behaviour depend greatly on whether one believes in the hereafter or not." To recover and win the next round, we must build a corruption-free character.

We cannot (and should not) compete with the West and Israel in the field of arms. We should not try to build a plane for a plane, a bomb for a bomb and a gun for a gun. The West destroyed the Soviet Union by forcing it to compete with them that way.

The struggle for Palestine is much deeper than that and we can win it. The struggle is between "technology" which they have and "ideas" which we have, between a civilisation that has dehumanised man and a civilisation that upholds human dignity above all. Coca Cola, Cadillac, Dallas, sex and dollars.

Egypt was conquered by a force of 3000 bedouins. Time and again, ideas triumphed over technology. Strong morals in the hands of the poor can defeat armies at the edge of Western technology.

We are not asking for more than our people's inalienable right to self-determination, a right which every body in the West takes for granted. After 77 years of struggle, our people need peace more than any other people in the world. But we want real peace, peace that could be accepted, not imposed. The Gaza-Jericho option does not have the necessary support of the Palestinian people.

As far as this agreement is concerned, there is nothing that answers the just demands and aspirations of our people. In a recent interview in the London-based pro-Saudi newspaper Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, Nabih Shaath, "minister" of Planning and International Cooperation in the Palestine National Authority, said that "President Arafat is making history." I don't

think it is an exaggeration to say that the "history" he is talking about is the Palestinians' Versailles.

The Palestinian people have got nothing. We are still only at the theoretical level and right now no one is satisfied. In the same interview Shaath says that "80,000 Palestinians were waving flags in Gaza welcoming President Arafat". Even if this figure is true (many observers question that and put the figure around 17,000-20,000) flags do not equal freedom. Mr. Arafat has to seek permission from Israeli occupation authorities to go to Jericho. The Palestinians in the diaspora feel ignored and betrayed. "If this is the maximum that Arafat could get after six years of the intifada, what will he get now that he is in the hands of the Israelis, on the really important issues like Jerusalem, Jewish settlements and the return of the Palestinians who have been driven out since 1948?" they argue.

The foreign journalists and statesmen who met Mr. Arafat in 1990 felt that he was no longer the man they used to know. He was incoherent, suspicious. His plane crash in the Lihyan Desert in 1991 compounded these traits. I thought he would draw the necessary conclusion and widen the leadership of the PLO by admitting the Palestinian Salvation Front; instead, he shrank it. Mr. Arafat probably felt that he could either still and go steadily downhill, because he had no margin to move and act as a freedom fighter and no petrodollars were coming from Saudi Arabia, or he could get back into action by relying on Israel and on earmarking on his dangerous adventure.

The psychological aspect of this is that Mr. Arafat, being aware of his symbolic role, started to feel that if his stomach felt O.K., then the stomach of the Palestinian people must feel O.K. He thought that if he was victorious in Washington, then we were all victorious. I honestly believe that Mr. Arafat got trapped by being in Tunis, away from our Palestinian masses. He has been enchanted by the role of CNN. In that way he was imitating Mr. Sadat.

According to the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington between the PLO and Israel, the Zionist state commits itself to nothing. Mr. Arafat gave up everything, including the legitimate right to resist. Right now, Palestinians have got the right to manage the world's largest prison, the Gaza Strip, plus one cow town. It is as though the Irish in 1921 got Tralee and a few acres in West Cork, with Britain holding the entire eastern half, Belfast, Dublin, Waterford, its army free to roam at will across the Irish enclaves, themselves fragmented by British highways and drained of water.

There will be no Palestinian sovereignty and the economy will be completely subordinated to Israel's. As the Israeli economy is inter-

nationalised, foreign companies will set up sweatshops in Gaza and the West Bank, and the Palestinians will furnish the labour for six U.S. dollar a day. Members of the Palestine Liberation Army, imported from outside the occupied territories, will do the policing, just as the sepoy did for the British in India. The Hebrew-language newspaper Yediot Ahronot reported on Aug. 2 that "Israel's security police were already cooperating with the Palestinian police against extremist groups (Hamas, the Islamic Jihad and the PFLP) in Gaza."

Seventeen years ago, in August 1977, I wrote an article in The Third World Review titled: "From Dream to Reality: Portrait of a Palestinian State." Following the end of the state of quiescence that had characterised the Palestinians till 1967, the return began to acquire dialectical images, a trip forward, matching a corresponding shift in folk rhetoric. In the rhetoric of 1977, there was something worse than a West Bank-Gaza state, and that was having nothing. At least the Palestinians (so my argument went) will no longer have their noses rubbed in the vomit of foreign military occupation, refugee camps, and the destitution of homelessness.

The PLO implicitly recognised Israel when we joined the United Nations as observers in November 1974. We did it explicitly in 1988, when the Palestinian National Council proclaimed the establishment of the state of Palestine on the basis of U.N. Resolution 181, which called for the partition of Palestine. Moreover, the PLO accepted Resolution 242 and gave up territory that was ours according to Resolution 181. So it is not recognition of Israel that we object to. But we thought that we would come out better on the right to self-determination and the right to return. We thought that we might have to pay more, but we have never thought that we would be party to an agreement that pitchforks us into the unknown and gives up our last card as negotiators, namely the intifada, our right to resist occupation.

The question of Palestine has reached a critical point. The United States and Israel have won the first round. Our leaders have failed our people and being corrupt themselves, they have corrupted everything they touched including our revolution. We can win the next round by restructuring our national resources on a moral ground. We can lead the whole Middle East into a better world by being a role model. There are not short cuts.

The writer is a Palestinian author and researcher at the Institute for Theory of Science, University of Gothenburg, Sweden. He was director of research at the PLO's Planning Centre in Beirut and Tunis. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

An Islamic struggle for Saudi Arabia's soul

By Nora Boustany

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia is the scene of an undeclared battle between those who want to bring the kingdom into the modern age and those who fear that doing so could harm its cultural identity and religious heritage. Each side invokes its special Islamic character, and the Gulf war, during which American and other foreign forces were based in Saudi Arabia, brought the conflict into sharper focus.

Since then, self-proclaimed reformers seeking a bigger say in how the monarchy conducts foreign policy and spends oil income have found in religion what they are essentially political demands for power and participation.

At the same time, as religious fundamentalism sweeps across the Arab World, Saudi Arabia has become more self-righteous about its orthodoxy while holding its society in a straitjacket of public morality. After female American soldiers came to help defend the

kingdom four years ago, local religious sensitivities intensified, prompting a backlash by secularists. As a result, strict rules were temporarily lifted, but they have now been reimposed.

Saudi officials, who have observed the tremors of zealotry in Algeria and Egypt erupt into political opposition, note that this country can hardly be outdone in the realm of religious fundamentalism. Its rulers and most of its conservative population practice a rigorous form of Sunni Islam known as Wahhabism.

"If you look at what people are asking for, they want what is normal in Saudi Arabia," Prince Bandar Ben Sultan, the Saudi ambassador to Washington, said in a recent interview. "This is a conservative country by its own construction," echoed a Saudi cabinet minister. "Fundamentalists in other countries are trying to reinstate what was lost and what Saudis have been doing for years."

In the 1930s, King Abdulaziz Ben Saud, forged what

is today Saudi Arabia, drawing on the teachings of Mohammad Abdul Wahhab, an 18th-century preacher who developed the puritanical sect that bears his name. Since the founding of Saudi Arabia in 1932, the religious establishment has been accorded special consideration.

Now the Council of Ulama, made up of Islamic scholars, and the Islamic Judicial Court, sit "to the right of the king," according to one Saudi physicist.

The appointed members of these bodies act as intermediaries between the state and the younger Islamic generation that is pushing for power. That class of mosque preachers, judges and professors has spoken out more daringly against corruption and financial mismanagement since the Gulf war, which cost the kingdom \$65 billion, and has promoted an even stricter application of the Sharia, or Islamic law.

"They have a voice," a secular Saudi said. "They are the only lobby in the country. They are aggressive, obnoxious and very

intimidating, and the government always succumbs to them. The liberals are all cowards. I am one of them."

An Islamist-oriented lawyer agreed: "The reason is not that the clerics were the only podiums available. The religious sector was the one that had more courage to take the risk and voice an opinion. Everyone is equally prohibited from demanding change."

Saudi groups in exile disavow militant piety or violence, but memories of the 1979 armed takeover of the Grand Mosque in Mecca by a fanatic claiming to be the expected mahdi, or messiah, linger.

Although calling for more openness and "human rights," reformers are seeking an even more puritanical application of Islamic rules.

A weekly newspaper called Al-Muslimun — The Muslims — once flourished with a circulation of 170,000. That has now sagged to 20,000 after attacks from the pulpits on its secular views.

"This is a law within the

While one sector of society describes the fastidious enforcement of morality as "social and emotional terror," others contend it is their religious right and duty to propagate virtue and fight vice, and even to interrogate, detain and punish violators.

law," said a U.S.-educated Saudi businessman who puts himself on the secular end of the social spectrum.

While one sector of society describes the fastidious enforcement of morality as "social and emotional terror," others contend it is their religious right and duty to propagate virtue and fight vice, and even to interrogate, detain and punish violators. The Interior Minister Prince Nayif, said, however, that members of the mutawa, the religious police, who exceeded their limits were now being punished or fired.

"This country is hypochondriac about its stability," a Saudi econom-

ist said.

A Saudi analysis said: "This is not a repressive society. This is not a tyranny but people disappear."

Publications distributed from London by the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights describe scores of arrests without due process and the reprimanding of clerics for sermons considered subversive.

The Saudi government has been quietly fighting extremism inside and outside its borders and also attempting to block the use of Islamic charity organisations as channels for infiltration by militants.

"Ten major charities in



The Gulf war, during which Western forces were based in Saudi Arabia, brought into sharper focus the conflict between reformers and conservatives (File photo)

Riyadh were suddenly dissolved and ordered to stop their activities by a direct order from Prince Salman, the governor of Riyadh," the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights reported last month.

A lawyer in Riyadh said if preachers give sermons as politically provocative, they are dismissed. "Now people are censuring themselves," he said.

Last year, King Fahd created the Islamic Affairs Ministry so the state could better control and regulate

the activities of Islamic preachers, charity organisations and universities, and streamline the work of mulahs whose mission it is to proselytise here and abroad.

"Societies that raise money from private individuals abroad cannot operate unless they have a license to do so," a Saudi official said. The move followed reports from Algeria, Sudan and Egypt that wealthy Saudis were financing extremist movements on their soil.

[illegible]

Davenport dispatches Shriver at U.S. Open

NEW YORK (AP) — One came to say hello, the other to say goodbye. Lindsay Davenport in her stadium court debut at the U.S. Open, Pam Shriver in her likely farewell, both lingering to soak up the moment.

There wasn't much time for sentimentality during their first match against each other, a 6-1, 6-2 second-round wipeout by Davenport that lasted only 53 minutes.

But it was long enough to see the tremendous promise of Davenport at 18 and to feel a twinge of sorrow for Shriver, whose many injuries prevented her from topping her own splashy debut here at 16 in 1978 when she reached the final and lost a close match to Chris Evert.

Shriver, a 6-footer who seemed gigantic when she turned pro and introduced the oversized prince racket to tennis, looked defenceless against the younger, taller, stronger Davenport after holding serve at love in the first game.

"I will be surprised if I get out there again for singles," Shriver said. "I was feeling very small, very vulnerable."

Davenport pummeled groundstrokes into the corners and moved fluidly and efficiently, if not quickly, around the court as she won

the next nine games. It got to the point where Shriver cursed to the crowd when they applauded a routine volley winner midway through the second set.

"I hate feeling like there is sympathy clapping and sarcastic cheers," Shriver said. "I guess I want to try and keep my dignity, not get really mad. I didn't want to cry. I don't think I made a fool of myself. She didn't cry and she didn't make a fool of herself."

She whacked the court with her racket a couple of times to vent her anger, and got a little misty-eyed as she looked around before departing the stadium. She took off her glasses, stopped, and hesitated a few seconds. Unlike Martina Navratilova at Wimbledon, she couldn't reach down for a blade of grass.

"I may have chipped out a chunk of the court," she said, smiling now with a bulky ice pack on her shoulder.

"I caught myself a little bit by surprise," she said. "I was a little emotional. You know, I think it has been an emotional few days, in general."

A few days ago, Shriver lost to Navratilova, her former doubles partner, in the race for the WTA presidency after serving earnestly in that post for the past three years. Shriver accepted the defeat

and now must accept the approaching end of her career.

Davenport's career is just blossoming, though she is already seeded no. 6 in the Open. She got to the fourth round here last year, and seems headed toward a quarterfinal meeting with defending champion and top seed Steffi Graf, a 6-0, 6-2 victor Thursday over Sandra Cacic.

"I definitely want to get faster," said Davenport, who is in a training programme to bring down her weight from 165 pounds and tone up her muscles. "I am a good player, but when I play the top players, they really kind of exploit that weakness pretty easily."

"When I go out to play Steffi and Arantxa (Sanchez Vicario) it is pretty much an uphill battle. I don't think when I go out there, Oh, I am going to lose." But I don't think, "Oh, I will be off the court in an hour." I really have to be up for those matches and play my best tennis to win. That is a lot of pressure. Those two are the worst to play. The other players I am not so afraid of."

In other women's matches, No. 7 Jana Novotna beat Karina Habsudova 6-2, 6-3; No. 10 Zina Garrison Jackson beat Paola Suarez 6-4, 6-3; No. 11 Amanda Coetzer beat

Eugenia Manikova 6-2, 6-0; and No. 15 Magdalena Maleeva beat Ruxandra Dragomir 7-5, 6-3.

In men's matches, unseeded three-time champion Ivan Lendl retired with back pain while losing 6-4, 7-6 (7-5), 1-0 to Bernd Karbacher; No. 9 Todd Martin beat Andrei Chesnokov 6-3, 6-2, 7-5; No. 13 Thomas Muster beat Maurice Ruah 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2; and No. 15 Marc Rosset beat Nicklas Kulti 6-4, 6-2, 6-7 (7-2), 6-2.

Lendl, asked whether this might have been his last U.S. Open, replied with typical sarcasm.

"It is always a chance," he said. "I may get run over by a car just outside — so may you. I'm bit quicker moving away."

Rickey Reneberg, who knocked out Boris Becker in the first round, kept up his fine play with a 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 victory over Jordi Burillo.

"I have never really done that well in Grand Slams," said Reneberg, who has been far more successful in doubles than singles. "Just because I beat Becker, no one is going to roll over and give me matches.... I felt a little more pressure today. Fortunately, he made a few more unforced errors than he usually does and got a little bit impatient."



Steffi Graf of Germany serves against Sandra Cacic of the U.S. Thursday during their second-round match at the U.S. Open in New York. Graf won the match 6-0, 6-2 (AP photo)

Bebeto says he will stay with Deportivo

LA CORUNA, Spain (AP) — Brazilian World Cup hero Bebeto said Thursday he would stay one more season with the Spanish club Deportivo, unable to buy out his contract and return to Brazil.

"I'm a person with a big heart, so I've decided to come back one more season with Deportivo and try with my teammates to win the league — which is very important," Bebeto told reporters.

Bebeto said he would return immediately to Brazil and would miss Sunday's season-opening game against Athletic de Bilbao.

He is expected to begin training Wednesday with the club, although it wasn't clear if he would be ready to play Deportivo's second game of the season against Sporting de Gijon.

Bebeto, who arrived in Spain last week and offered the club \$5 million to buy out the two years remaining on his contract, has refused to train and has been fined several hundred thousand dollars by Deportivo for his absence.

Deportivo President Augusto Cesar Lendorio said Thursday he was unable to negotiate a deal with

Flamengo President Luiz Augusto Veloso. Lendorio said he also met Thursday with Bebeto, who helped lead Brazil this summer to an unprecedented fourth World Cup title.

"We have not come to an agreement with (Brazilian club) Flamengo in the talks we've had. Therefore, Bebeto will stay with Deportivo de la Coruna," Lendorio said.

The terms under which Bebeto will play one instead of two seasons with Deportivo were not immediately revealed.

News reports in Brazil said Veloso would offer \$6 million for Bebeto's two-year contract with Deportivo. Reports also said Veloso would enhance the deal by also offering a Flamengo player and the gate receipts from three or more exhibition games.

Bebeto, who played previously in Brazil with Flamengo and Vasco da Gama, said he wanted to return to Brazil where his wife and children were more comfortable.

The Brazilian striker has helped transform Deportivo in the last two seasons from a weak club to a contender.

Indurain breaks record

BORDEAUX, France (AP) — Four-time Tour de France winner Miguel Indurain broke the world record for one-hour cycling Friday, covering 53.04 kilometres (32.96 miles) in his first attempt at the mark.

Indurain bettered the record of 52.713 kilometres (32.76 miles) set last April by Scotland's Graham Obree at the same track. Obree had taken the mark from England's Chris Boardman, who covered 52.27 kilometres (32.48 miles) in July 1993.

Both Boardman and Obree were track world champions. Indurain was used to the road, where he has dominated the Tour de France, the world's most prestigious cycling race, for the last four years.

Indurain dropped behind the early pace of Obree and was down almost five seconds after completing the first five kilometres (three miles) in 5 minutes, 43.9 seconds. Obree did 5:38.99 in his record.

Indurain whittled away at the margin. By 10 kilometres, he was just 1.9 seconds behind, and 1.1 seconds behind at 15 kilometres.

The Spanish rider overtook Obree's time at the 20th kilometre, 22:38.54 to 22:39.03.

From then on Indurain moved away from Obree's times. At the 25th kilometre, the Spaniard was 3.6 seconds ahead; at 30 kilometres he was 5.9 seconds up.

By 40 kilometres the margin was up to 16.9 seconds and at 50 kilometres it was a bit more than 20 seconds.

Indurain had just passed the 53-kilometre barrier when the hour ended. He took off his aerodynamic helmet and punched the air with his right hand while slowing down.

The crowd of nearly 2,000 at the Bordeaux-Lac Velodrome cheered him and Indurain gave a hug to his mechanic and team manager.

Indurain had prepared for the record over the past 10 days on a new hi-tech bike with special lightweight material with a carbon disc back wheel. To ride at the top speed for the distance Indurain had to adopt a position slightly different than he was used to in the Tour de France.

Dutch opt for World Cup squad

ROTTERDAM (R) — Familiar faces were missing from the Dutch squad named for next Wednesday's opening European Championship qualifier in Luxembourg, but coach Dick Advocaat has opted for players tried and tested in the World Cup.

Ruud Gullit, Ronald Koeman, Frank Rijkaard and Jan Wouters, stars of the 1988 European Championship-winning team, have all retired, and injury has put paid to Marco van Basten, Dennis Bergkamp, and Gaston Taumek.

Milan-based Bergkamp is recovering from a back injury, Taumek has a sore thigh, and van Basten is plagued by a long-term ankle injury.

All 16 players named by Advocaat to play Luxembourg in the Group Five match were part of the squad for the World Cup finals in the United States earlier this year.

Cousteau says athletes should aspire to compete, not cheat

PARIS (AP) — Jacques Cousteau says he longs for the days when athletes competed for the sake of participation and perfection instead of cheating with drugs and money for stardom.

"At the sight of a masterly pole vault or at the finish line of a 400-metre dash... I shake with pride to belong to the human species," the 84-year-old marine explorer told the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Friday.

"But today the Olympic adventure is immersed in multiple, petty problems that must not mask its deep significance," he said at the 12th IOC Congress. "The gods of the stadium are confronted with training that is more and more severe, with the temptation to use drugs, with television and media of all types, with the powers of money, with parasites that surround them, and with the adulation of crowds. Their only protection from so much aggression remains, for most, the love of their sport."

Speaking on the final working day of the first IOC Congress since 1981, Cousteau continued criticism of money and commercialisation corrupting the ideals of sports.

"We live in a market economy where everything is for sale — champions, even teams, just like consciences," he said. "Is the adulation of crowds not enough of a stimulant, as it seems to have been in ancient times? Why, in modern days, did it have to be replaced by an eternal spirit of competition, with its cohort of conflicts, irritation and violence?"

The Olympics nevertheless provide the opportunity for the world's youth to strive for better personal performances, he said.

"Swarms of young people, thanks to the games, lead a healthier, more ardent life," Cousteau said. "Some will be disappointed, others proud. All will have participated, many will feel compelled to do better, in all fields."

Also France's sports minister warned Thursday that money can corrupt Olympic athletes, while the IOC defended aggressive commercialisation as necessary to spread Olympic values.

Money and the media can fuel the same kind of corruption that destroyed the ancient Olympic Games, said French Sports Minister Michele Alliot-Marie.

"In order to win at all costs — which is the condition of media coverage and therefore financing — any means will do both for sportsmen and the groups which back them," Alliot-Marie said in a keynote speech.

"The ancient Olympic Games died from these diseases: Money, corruption and cheating," she said.

But Dick Pound, a powerful IOC member from Canada and chairman of the IOC's New Sources of Financing Commission, said outside financing of Olympic Games and programmes is necessary.

"We seek out sponsorship and commercialisation," he said in an evening news conference. "We recognise that we can't be uncritical about it, but it is essential to an international sports programme."

"We believe we need in the Olympic movement the autonomy that comes from financial independence," he said, calling Alliot-Marie's speech "a kind of challenge, someone saying there are some dangers. I don't see it as a provocation."

The IOC already has

limitations on commercialisation, such as banning all stadium advertising and ads on athletes' bibs. Pound said.

"There's a lot of promotion going on around the games, and we like that. There's no way we could promote the values of the games on our own resources."

The IOC announced Thursday the addition of the American firms UPS and John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. as the last of 10 sponsors to join the top III Programme. They committed some \$40 million each to funding Olympic programmes from 1993-96.

Sponsorship however is slipping, mostly because of the global sagging economy, said Brian Tobin, president of the International Tennis Federation.

"The downturn has been felt in Europe, especially Germany where large television rights and sponsorship fees have fallen away, and in Japan where large Japanese conglomerates were providing much of the sponsorship money for sport and the arts," he said.

Sponsorship could wane for other reasons if the IOC doesn't hold to a high moral standard, warned one of the IOC's biggest corporate backers: Coca-Cola.

"The IOC must preserve the integrity that attracts major corporations to seek associations with the Olympic Games," said John Hunter, executive vice president of the Coca-Cola Co., in another keynote speech.

"If the Olympic movement, for example, allows its 'product' — however defined — to fall from its position as the number one sports even in the world, the motivation for a sponsor to seek association with it, becomes less," Hunter said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Belkevich gets one-year ban

ZURICH (R) — Dynamo Minsk midfielder Valentin Belkevich was Thursday suspended from all UEFA competition matches for a year for using a banned drug.

European soccer's governing body announced the punishment after a meeting of its control and disciplinary committee, who banned Belkevich until Sept. 2, 1995. A UEFA statement said a urine test carried out after the UEFA Cup preliminary round match between Dynamo Minsk and Hibernians of Malta last month revealed traces of the anabolic steroid nandrolone. Subsequently, an analysis carried out on the second, or B, sample provided by the Belarus International confirmed the positive result of the A sample. Nandrolone is among UEFA's list of banned substances. Dynamo Minsk have also been fined 50,000 Swiss francs (\$37,590).

Portugal hit by injuries

LISBON (R) — An injured knee will keep Sporting midfielder Oceano Cruz out of Portugal's match against Northern Ireland Wednesday in their European soccer championship Group Six qualifier, officials said.

Benfica striker Joao Vieira Pinto, who is recovering after a nose operation, and winger Paulo Futre of Italian first division club Reggiana, who is still out of action after a knee operation last year, have also been sidelined from the game in Belfast. Sa Pinto will replace Futre to make his international debut after transferring this season to Sporting from Salgueiros. Midfielder Paulo Sousa and striker Rui Costa who joined Italy's Juventus and Fiorentina respectively this season, arrived in Lisbon Thursday to join the national squad.

Jordan not to return for All-Star event

CHICAGO (R) — Michael Jordan will not take a break from his Minor League baseball stint to return to the basketball court for a charity game next week, the Chicago Bulls said Thursday. There had been speculation that Jordan would join former NBA champion teammate Scottie Pippen who has organised the Ameritech All-Star classic at the Chicago stadium Sept. 9. In a brief announcement the Bulls said Jordan had asked the club to "inform all media that due to his baseball commitments he will not be able to play in that or any other charity basketball game." Jordan, who led the Bulls to three consecutive NBA championships before quitting the sport, has spent the season with the Birmingham Barons, a Chicago White Sox farm club.

Khan stays number one

LONDON (AFP) — Pakistan's Jansher Khan remains number one in the latest Professional Squash Association world rankings. Englishman Philip Whitlock moves to two places to 10th, displacing compatriot Tony Hands, while Australian Rodney Eyles pulls level third with Peter Marshall of England in the only positional change to the top 10.

Baresi named in Italian squad

ROME (R) — Veteran captain Franco Baresi was named Friday in Italy's squad for next Wednesday opening European Championship qualifier against Slovenia six weeks after saying he was quitting international soccer. Baresi, 34, who also captained European champions AC Milan, said he was retiring in July after Italy lost the World Cup final to Brazil in a penalty shootout in which both he and striker Roberto Baggio missed from the spot.

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary Issue No. 16/1994 Drawing of September 2, 1994

Winning Tickets	
Holder of ticket No. 64819 Wins JD 40,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 3,000 each wins JD 300 64810 64829 64919 65819 74819 64818 64809 64719 63519 64819
Holder of ticket No. 82623 Wins JD 10,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 1,000 each wins JD 100 82624 82633 82723 83623 92623 82622 82613 82523 81623 72623
Holder of ticket No. 27425 Wins JD 5,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 700 each wins JD 70 27426 27435 27525 28425 37425 27424 27415 27325 26425 17425
Holder of ticket No. 33412 Wins JD 3,500	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 400 each wins JD 40 33413 33422 33512 34412 43412 33411 33402 33312 32412 23412
Holder of ticket No. 75149 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 250 each wins JD 25 75140 75159 75249 76149 85149 75148 75139 75049 74149 65149
Holder of ticket No. 70334 Wins JD 2,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 200 each wins JD 20 70335 70344 70434 71334 80334 70333 70324 70234 79334 60334
Holder of ticket No. 74179 Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 100 each wins JD 10 74170 74189 74279 75179 84179 74178 74169 74079 73179 64179
Holder of ticket No. 65900 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 50 each wins JD 5 65901 65910 65000 66900 75900 65909 65990 65800 64900 55900
Ticket numbers 35120 51735 91438 16459 97373 win JD 200 each	
Ticket numbers 44670 58634 73291 71795 45079 win JD 100 each	
TICKETS ENDING WITH	
3329 4929 4819 8602 Win JD 60 each	8262 5838 6897 Win JD 30 each 8520 4700
662 359 Win JD 15 each	349 564 470 502 Win JD 10 each
44 Win JD 6 each	9 (Nine) Win JD 3 each
COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS	
40 covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in 908 158 385 638 Win JD 10	
Winners of the grand prizes in the special issue number 15/1994 of August 17, 1994	
Chad Ahmad Hameed Full Name: Chad Ahmad Hameed Full Address: 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761,	

o says he will with Deportivo

Flamengo President Luiz Augusto Veloso, Lendorio said he also met Thursday with Bebeto, who helped lead Brazil this summer to an unprecedented fourth World Cup title.

"We have not come to an agreement with (Brazilian club) Flamengo in the past," he said. "Therefore, Bebeto will stay with Deportivo." Lendorio said he met with Bebeto to discuss the deal by which the player would play two seasons with Deportivo before returning to Brazil.

News reports in Brazil said Veloso would offer \$6 million to buy Bebeto's two-year contract with Deportivo. Reports also said Veloso would enhance the deal by also offering a Flamengo player to the gate receipts from three or more exhibition games.

Bebeto, who played previously in Brazil with Flamengo and Vasco da Gama, said he wanted to return to Brazil where his wife and children were more comfortable.

The Brazilian striker has helped transform Deportivo in the last two seasons from a weak club to a contender.

5 IN BRIEF

one-year ban

Dynamo Minsk midfielder Valentyn Yarmolenko was suspended for a year for using a banned drug, the Ukrainian football federation announced. The ban is for the use of a substance that is prohibited under the FIFA rules. Yarmolenko was suspended for a year for using a banned drug, the Ukrainian football federation announced. The ban is for the use of a substance that is prohibited under the FIFA rules.

Injuries

Injured knee will keep Sporting CP out of Portugal's match against the city game next week, the Chicago White Sox have had been speculation that the NBA champion teammate organized the Ameritech All-Star game Sept. 9. In a brief announcement, he had asked the club to "inform baseball commitments he will not or any other charity basketball" the Bulls to three consecutive seasons of the sport, has spent the last two seasons with the Chicago White Sox.

turn for All-Star event

Jordan will not take a break from baseball stint to return to the city game next week, the Chicago White Sox have had been speculation that the NBA champion teammate organized the Ameritech All-Star game Sept. 9. In a brief announcement, he had asked the club to "inform baseball commitments he will not or any other charity basketball" the Bulls to three consecutive seasons of the sport, has spent the last two seasons with the Chicago White Sox.

er one

Kistan's Jansher Khan remains Professional Squash Association as Philip Whitlock moves to two compatriot Tony Hands, while a pulls level third with Peter as only positional change to the

Italian squad

Francis Franco Baresi was named for next Wednesday opening qualifier against Slovenia six qualifying international soccer. Italian European champions AC in July after Italy lost the World Cup final in which both he and Baresi were missed from the spot.

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Stewart gold sparkles in the rain at the world swimming championships

ROME (AFP) — Zimbabwe's Evan Stewart became the first African to win a gold medal at the world swimming championships with a stunning triumph in the 1m springboard diving here Friday.

The 19-year-old, who had trailed the favourite Wei Lan through the first five rounds of the final, pulled off a superb final dive to match the title from under the nose of the Chinese student.

Trailing by nearly 13 points — a huge margin to make up — on one dive — Stewart produced a near perfect execution of an inward 2.5 somersaults in the pike position, one of the toughest dives in the book.

His display earned a best-of-the-day 76.50 points from the judges and piled all the pressure onto the Chinese, who had led from the start and by a massive 22 points after the fourth round.

Wei Lan, needing to make

63.60 points to win, cracked. On the final dive of the competition he overspun on his backward 2.5 somersaults and could only manage 56.64 to finish with the silver medal.

"Going into that last dive I was actually more concentrating on holding off Brian Easley for second place," Stewart said.

"I thought Lan was too far ahead to be caught so I was more relaxed than I would have been if I thought I could have won it."

Not even the downpour that came flooding through the roof of the press room and brought an abrupt end to Stewart's victory conference or the organisers' blunder that led to the wrong national anthem being played at the medals ceremony could dampen his spirits.

"I feel incredibly elated," he said, holding a plastic cup to catch the drips in one hand, his gold medal in the

other.

"I was standing on the podium shaking. It probably won't sink in until tonight that I'm the world champion."

"To stand there and watch the Zimbabwean flag going up was a very proud moment — even if it was not the right one," Stewart laughed.

"They played God Bless Africa, which was the national anthem but it was changed last year."

Embarrassed organisers explained the mix-up had come about because Zimbabwe's federation had not submitted a flag and anthem, as asked to by the International Swimming Federation. Instead they relied on a list supplied by the IAAF.

Stewart, who could manage only bronze in the event at the Commonwealth Games last month, also revealed a debt to the country he denied the gold.

"I went on a training trip to China in 1991 and the time I spent there really changed my diving. China taught me a lot about strength training and what I had to do in that area. It's certainly paid off now."

Wei Lan refused to accept that he had blown his chance of glory. "Evan has made great progress and you have to give him the credit for that," he said.

"I don't think I dived badly. I just did my average but Evan dived exceptionally."

While Evan was sheltering from the rain as best he could in the leaky building around the Foro Italico pool, his father Rob, who introduced him to the sport as a 7-year-old, was getting well and truly soaked as one of the judges for the women's 10m platform final.

Organisers finally allowed him to join his son's celebrations by postponing the event until Saturday.

Morceli chases Grand Prix bonanza

PARIS (AFP) — Noureddine Morceli can win \$30,000 here in Saturday's IAAF Grand Prix final by winning the 1,500m to take the overall title.

Ireland's European 3,000m champion Sonia O'Sullivan can take the women's overall title by winning the 5,000m.

Morceli's world 3,000m record in Monaco gives him a six-point advantage over the six other men to have scored five or more Grand Prix wins in 1994. If the Algerian wins Saturday's race he can only be beaten if one of his rivals wins a world record of their own.

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Neither vulnerable. West deals. NORTH: A J 10 7 K 10 9 6 K J 9 3. WEST: A K J 10 4 3 9 7 6 5 5 5. EAST: A 7 5 2 4 3 2. SOUTH: A Q 8 6 5 4 3 2 3. The bidding: West North East South 1* Dbl 4* 6. Pass Pass Pass Pass. Opening lead: King of 4.

When partner has made an opening lead, your duty in third seat normally is to signal whether you like the suit or not — a high card is encouraging, while a low one suggests partner look for greener pastures. When dummy has a singleton in the suit led against a suit contract, third hand has additional options. Now you can use the card you follow with to show exactly which suit you want partner to lead next. This hand, dealt in a national championship some years ago, illustrates how important suit-preference signals can be.

East's preemptive jump in four spades robbed North-South of all the room they needed to explore whether they held the values for a slam. South was afraid to bid four no trump lest partner construe it as something other than Blackwood and the decision to leap to six hearts is hard to fault.

West led the king of spades and when dummy appeared it was obvious to East that a shift might be urgently required. Not just any shift, but specifically a diamond. Had North held a doubleton spade, East would have had to play a low card and hope partner found the right shift. As the cards lay, however, East had the opportunity for a suit-preference signal. East followed to the first trick with the queen of spades, a request for partner to switch to the higher of the remaining side suits. In this case diamonds. West duly obliged and declarer was down a trick almost before play started.

What other options were available to East? A low spade would ask for a diamond shift, the lower of the two side suits. And a middle spade would show no clear preference and allow West to choose how to continue in the defense.

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Lebanese team shines at RJ show-jumping championships

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Lebanese Jockey Karim Fares won the Grand Prix competition of the Royal Jordanian International Clubs Show-Jumping Championships at the Arabian Horse Club Friday. Fares averaged a low of 1.5 mistake on his horse "Zozo" in the two-round competition marking the end of the nine-contest event.

Jordanian riders Muna Sukhtian, Hani Bisharat and Ra'ed Nasser won the next three places respectively. Sukhtian, who came in second, made eight mistakes riding "Remos." Bisharat, riding "Fakher Al Arab" followed with 9.5 mistakes, while Nasser fell in fourth place with 11.5 mistakes on "Rum."

Earlier in the day, two competitions were held. The Amra competition and the Dead Sea speed and handiness competition. Of the 33 riders participating in Amra competition, only 10 made it to the final stage.

Siham Oseili of Lebanon, who collected four titles in the championships, won the first place with a 25.6 seconds after passing all the jumps without mistakes. She was followed by Jordan's Ibrahim Bisharat with 31.2. Hussein Muri from Qatar was third with 33 seconds.

The Dead Sea competition was dominated by Lebanese riders George Aboud who passed the jumps in 59.2 seconds. Oseili came close to winning on her horse "Ziada," fell short by 0.2 seconds, clocking 59.4. Fares, won the third place with 62.7 seconds on his horse "Charlie Brown."

The three-day event saw 10 countries — Qatar, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunis, Germany, Belgium, France, Ireland in addition to Jordan — participating in nine different competitions.

On Thursday's, Oseili shined again when she passed 40 competitors and captured the two-phase-Rum competition. In the first stage the riders had to pass all the jumps without any time limits. Those who did, moved to the second stage where they have to cross all the barriers with the least number of mistakes and in the shortest possible time.

Oseili proved that she is capable of passing the 115-centimetre jumps on her horse Ziada.

In the Petra Club contest, sixteen riders representing four teams from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Qatar took part. The results of the best three riders in the two-stage competition were taken. The jumps were 130 centimetres in height and the riders had only 82 seconds to finish each stage.

The Qatari team won the first place, followed by the Lebanese team. The Jordanian team was third and the fourth place was occupied by the Syrian team.

The third competition of the day, Al Salt competition, saw European jockeys capturing the first and second places out of 17 riders. In this competition, the riders had to pass 125-centimetre jumps within 70 seconds.

German Alaz Buchwald,



Photo above, Lebanon's Siham Oseili, the star of the championships after capturing four titles, rides "Ziada" to victory in the Amra competition. On right, Jordan's Ibrahim Bisharat who won the second place in the Amra competition, riding "Amigo," waits for the second place trophy (photos by Rana Hussein)



who was riding Al Ahbar, won first place. Jessica Chesney of Ireland riding Salam came in second and Oseili left a Lebanese mark on her horse "Karris" for third place.

In the first day of the competition, Oseili impressed the crowd by capturing two titles. In the Jerash competition, she gathered 44 points in 67 seconds then she came back strongly in the Moab hit and

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Dr. Marwan Al Akaidi will be visiting Jordan. He will be available to answer your enquiries at the British Council from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. September 6 Tuesday September 7 Wednesday, 1994. The British Council, Jabal Amman, First Circle, Rainbow Street, Tel: 636147/8 De Montfort University, Leicester, The Gateway, Leicester LE1 9BH, U.K. Tel. 0044 533 551551 Fax. 0044 533 577052.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

MEA cockpit crews strike, 2,000 stranded

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Flight crews of Middle East Airlines, Lebanon's national carrier, went on strike Friday demanding a pay increase, stranding more than 2,000 travellers bound for Europe, North Africa and the Gulf states at Beirut airport. Aviation officials said urgent negotiations were underway to resolve the crisis, which threatens Lebanon's economic woes in the aftermath of its 1975-1990 civil war. The open-ended strike by 300 pilots and flight engineers grounded at least 10 MEA jetliners bound for Zurich, Frankfurt, Paris, Larnaca, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Tunis. MEA has 16 operational flights. Hundreds of passengers crammed the airport departure lounge, many frantic because they will miss connections to the United States and Canada. The strike was launched at the height of Lebanon's annual summer travel rush, when thousands of Lebanese who live abroad return to visit relatives. The walkout did not affect other airlines. But few of the stranded travellers were able to get seats on other flights because these were already full. Most foreign carriers have resumed flights to Beirut despite a U.S. aviation and travel ban imposed after the 1985 hijacking of a Trans-World Airlines jetliner to Beirut in which a U.S. navy diver was killed. MEA's cockpit crews have long been demanding an adjustment of salaries to cope with the soaring post-war cost of living. MEA officials and the strikers declined to disclose what cockpit crew pay scales are or how much the strikers are demanding. But aviation sources said an MEA captain averages around \$8,000 a month in salary. The company, which is predominantly owned by the state, contends it cannot afford to meet the strikers' demands at it struggles to rebuild following the war. MEA Chairman Abdul Hamid Fakhoury said last month the company lost \$5 million in the first seven months of 1994.

Hizbollah attacks are bigger, better — Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Pro-Israeli Hizbollah guerrillas are launching bigger and better assaults against Israeli forces in southern Lebanon, according to northern commander Major General Yitzhak Mordechai. "Hizbollah has moved from squads to larger units of between 15 to 20 and sometimes as many as 30 terrorists," Gen. Mordechai told Israeli military reporters on Thursday evening. "Hizbollah uses mortars and tries to attack several positions simultaneously with the aim of spreading the fire... over a wide area to mislead and then concentrating on the real point of attack." He refuted claims that the army had eased up in southern Lebanon taking into account the Middle East peace process. "I am not aware of any Hizbollah bases in southern Lebanon. Hizbollah hides or mingles with the civilian population or is in areas which are very far from the point of contact," Gen. Mordechai explained at a northern border command post. Nonetheless, he said, the organisation had suffered heavy casualties in almost daily encounters. Israeli forces had killed at least 83 this year and wounded a further 70, the general said. "As long as there is no political solution we have to find all the ways and means both inside and outside the zone to strike against the terror which operates against us."

S. Africa police arrest suspects in Iranian murders

EAST LONDON, South Africa (R) — Two men have been arrested in connection with the killings of three Iranians at a Baha'i prayer meeting at a South African black township in March, police said on Friday. Iranians Houshmand Anvari, 43, Shamsan Bakshandegi, 29, and Riaz Razavi, 44, were shot dead on March 13 by black gunmen who separated them from black worshippers at Mdantshele township near the Indian Ocean port of East London. Police Lieutenant-Colonel Garry Nieuwenhuis told Reuters the two suspects would appear in court on Monday when their names would be made public. At the time of the attack police said it could be the work of the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA), the military wing of the radical Pan Africanist Congress (PAC). The gunmen were believed to have killed the Iranians, who had been in South Africa for several years, because they appeared to be white.

6 killed, 36 injured by police fire in India

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Six people were killed and 36 others injured Friday when police opened fire at protesters demanding a tribal homeland in northern Uttar Pradesh state, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said. The shooting occurred in the resort town of Mussorie after hundreds of activists demanding a tribal state in Uttar Pradesh's mountainous Garwal and adjoining regions attacked a paramilitary camp, PTI said. The attackers were also protesting a caste-based employment quota system. Friday's violence came a day after police shot dead three homeland activists in Nainital, another Uttar Pradesh tourist town, 225 kilometres northeast of New Delhi. Witnesses said among those killed was a government official who was accidentally shot at by the police and then battered to death by the attackers. A government spokesman in the Uttar Pradesh state capital Lucknow placed Friday's toll at five and said the police opened fire when some 300 protesters attacked the paramilitary camp.

Module docks with Mir space station

MOSCOW (AFP) — A cargo module carrying food and fuel successfully docked Friday with the orbiting Russian Mir-space station, ITAR-TASS said, saving the mission as well as millions of dollars in contracts with foreign partners. The successful docking came after two previous attempts since Aug. 27 failed, prompting Russian space officials to warn that the future of the Russian space programme was contingent on Friday's attempt.

Israel asks PLO to arrest Hamas suspects

GAZA (R) — Israel pressed PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on Thursday to arrest Islamic militants who killed two Jews in central Israel last week. "We would like to see as quickly as possible the... murderers put into prison," Israeli Housing Minister Binjamin Ben Eliezer told reporters after a meeting with Mr. Arafat in the PLO leader's headquarters in Palestinian-ruled Gaza. Israel has been demanding that Palestinian police crack down on the militant Hamas group and band over guerrillas who carry out attacks against Israelis in Gaza or who flee there after attacks inside Israel. Hamas claimed responsibility for killing two Jewish workers at a building site in the central Israeli town of Ramle last Friday. Israel believes they escaped to the Gaza Strip. "Definitely, I tried to explain to Mr. Yasser Arafat that the accident (that) happened in Ramle... was the breaking point that happened in the feelings of the Israelis," Mr. Ben-Eliezer said.

Muslim TV preacher campaigns against conference

CAIRO (AFP) — A Muslim preacher known to millions of Egyptian television viewers has joined the campaign against the U.N. World Population Conference, opposition newspapers reported Friday. Sheikh Mohammad Metwely Al Shaarawy said in an interview published by the Islamic newspaper Al Sabaab and the liberal daily Al Wafd that the conference was a "demonstration against Islam." "When I read the draft resolution, I was shocked. And then I said 'Maybe God ruled that this conference be held in Egypt so we can give them burning answers to what the draft says,'" he said. Sheikh Shaarawy, who has a highly-rated weekly television show in which he interprets verses from the Holy Quran to worshippers in a mosque, is the latest in a line of conservative and radical Muslims to denounce the conference. The Muslim opponents say the draft resolutions of the conference, which opens here on Monday, violate Islamic principles by condoning abortion, extra-marital sex and homosexuality.

Thailand detains leader of banned Islamic sect

BANGKOK (R) — Eleven followers of an Islamic sect banned in Malaysia were being transferred on Friday night to Thailand's special branch police headquarters from Bangkok airport where they had awaited deportation all day, a sect official said.

Malaysian immigration officials had earlier cancelled the passports of the sect members, clearing the way for their deportation from Thailand.

The whereabouts of the sect's leader Asbaari Mubammad — previously thought to be joining the group at the airport — were unknown. Sect members believed he could be waiting for them at the special branch.

Thai police and officials intercepted Asbaari Mubammad and other members of the Al Arqam sect while they were travelling to the northern town of Chiang Mai, said Mr. Asbaari's press secretary Jailani Jasmani.

Mr. Asbaari was separated from the rest of the group early in the day and taken by force to a government aircraft bound for Bangkok. Mr. Jasmani told Reuters. The rest followed from Chiang Mai.

Instead of joining the group at the airport as expected, Mr. Asbaari was still unaccounted for several hours later. Mr. Jasmani said the leader was believed to be at a special branch police office in Bangkok. The branch, which deals with political issues, refused to comment.

"They took Abuaya (Asbaari) in quite a rude manner, with none of his belongings or medicine," Mr. Jasmani said. "We are very worried about his condition."

The rest, including Mr. Jasmani, were told they were heading to join Mr. Jasmani at the special branch headoffice in Bangkok.

Mr. Jasmani said he hoped the move meant that immigration officials had heeded their appeal to give them a few days to prepare their departure and choose which country to go to.

PLO licenses An Nahar

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AFP) — The Palestinian authority has given permission for the pro-Jordanian An Nahar newspaper to publish again more than a month after closing it down, a PLO "minister" said Friday.

"They applied to us for the right to publish and we have agreed," Justice Minister Frieib Abu Middein told AFP.

"There is no problem. They can start again any time," he added.

The authority shut the daily at the end of July after an Israeli-Jordanian declaration which recognised special rights for Jordan over Muslim sites in Jerusalem.

It was the first clampdown on the Arabic press since autonomy was launched in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho on May 4 and provoked a storm of complaint.

Palestinian police detain five DFLP activists

GAZA (R) — Palestinian security forces in Gaza have detained five activists of a leftist opposition guerrilla group that claimed its gunmen had fired at an Israeli soldier, activists said on Friday.

The Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) issued a statement saying the five activists were arrested at their homes in Gaza's Jabalya refugee camp. It demanded they be released immediately.

"The Democratic Front previously warned that the Palestinian police is taking the role which shows they protect the (Israeli) occupation. We warn these policies

Israel pledges more money for Palestinians

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel promised Friday to provide more money to the financially strapped Palestinian self-rule government in Gaza and Jericho, without mentioning a specific sum.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat made the pledge during a meeting with Palestinian counterpart Mohammed Nashashibi in Shohat's Jerusalem office.

Israel has so far given the autonomy government about 13 million shekels (\$4 million), but the Palestinians are demanding tens of millions of dollars more that they say Israel collected from Palesti-

an workers over the years. Mr. Nashashibi said Israel promised to "clear the amounts that are due" to the Palestinians. He gave no target date or figure.

Israel radio said Mr. Shohat promised to provide an unspecified amount of money after the Jewish new year next week.

The Palestinians are short of funds because they have not begun collecting taxes and foreign donors have withheld the bulk of \$600 million in aid promised this year. The donor countries are demanding stricter Palestinian accounting procedures.

Mr. Jasmani said police earlier told them they would be deported to Malaysia, where Mr. Asbaari's teachings have been banned since 1988. Mr. Asbaari has lived in self-imposed exile in Thailand since that ban.

National police chief Pratin Santiprapob told reporters they were detained only because their passports were revoked. "This is not an arrest," Chief Pratin said.

No interior ministry or foreign ministry officials were available for comment.

Malaysian authorities banned the group last month, branding Mr. Asbaari's Sufi mysticism as a "deviantist" cult and declaring it a threat to public order.

The sect claims 100,000 followers in Malaysia and many more elsewhere in Asia and the Middle East. It believes Mr. Asbaari is destined to lead a great Islamic revival that will begin in Malaysia, sweep southeast Asia and herald the arrival of an Islamic messiah in Uzbekistan.

Al Arqam has amassed \$115 million from dozens of businesses and runs 48 communes and more than 250 schools in Malaysia.

Mr. Jasmani said on Friday the sect was not afraid to go back to Malaysia but wanted the freedom to choose where they were deported to. "Why are we being treated this way? We are not criminals. We have not refused to cooperate," he said.

Libyan 'party' angers France



IN FULL GEAR: Libya's leader Muammar Qadhafi salutes troops during a military parade in Tripoli for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of his arrival to power. Qadhafi

Libyan 'party' angers France

TRIPOLI (R) — Libya's celebrations marking Muammar Qadhafi's 25 years in power have further soured its relations with France, the only major Western nation with diplomats still in Tripoli.

French Charge d'Affaires Alain Azouaou boycotted Col. Qadhafi's keynote speech on Thursday night after Libyan teenagers marched over the French, U.S. and British flags during a mock battle watched by the Libyan leader.

Diplomatic sources said on Friday that Mr. Azouaou, who witnessed Wednesday night's mock battle, boycotted the speech after receiving instructions from Paris.

He protested to Libyan officials about the incident at the time but was told he had not been invited to the event and was not supposed to have witnessed it, the sources added.

France, one of three Western states in dispute with Libya over airliner bombings, is the only one which still has an ambassador in Libya. The ambassador was absent in Paris for an annual ambassador's conference.

The United States and Britain cut diplomatic ties with Libya in the mid-1980s after a series of disputes.

Relations with the West worsened when Libya refused to hand over two Libyans suspected of involvement in the 1988 Lockerbie airliner bombing over Scotland in which 270 people were killed.

France demanded Libyan

cooperation with investigations into a 1989 blast which killed 171 people on a French plane over Niger.

Libya denied involvement in the blasts but the U.N. Security Council, at the insistence of the United States, Britain and France, imposed sanctions against it. They include an air and arms blockade and the freezing of Libyan assets abroad.

Col. Qadhafi and the presidents of Algeria, Sudan and Chad attended the Wednesday night rally in Tripoli's main stadium during which dozens of youngsters staged a mock battle between Libya and the West — which Libya eventually won.

The battle was shown on Libyan television with youngsters carrying Col. Qadhafi's portrait marching across the flags.

Mr. Azouaou had gone to the stadium as a result of confusion over which events he had been invited to attend. He attended Thursday's military parade but received instructions from Paris the same day to boycott the remaining official ceremonies, the sources said.

Col. Qadhafi, 52, is revered by followers at home as "a guide for the whole of humanity," hailed as a hero by revolutionary movements around the world and dismissed as "a mad dog" by his foes in the West.

The dominant theme of the anniversary celebrations was defiance of the West and sanctions. Col. Qadhafi on Thursday night excluded any handover of the two Lockerbie suspects for a trial in the United States or Britain.

"This is impossible. Like they say there is no justice in Libya, we say there is no justice in the United States and Britain," he said.

Libya has said it sees no objection to the two standing trial before a special court in the Hague.

Notable absentees at the 25th anniversary celebrations were Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, Tunisia's Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, King Hassan of Morocco and Syria's Hafez Al Assad.

All attended the 20th anniversary celebrations but were represented this time by delegations at ministerial level.

Also absent from the celebrations was Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat, a regular guest at past anniversary celebrations. Mr. Arafat, whose self-rule deal with Israel has angered Libya and Palestinian and Arab radicals, was not invited for the first time.

During his address, Col. Qadhafi spoke in favour of negotiations to resolve problems.

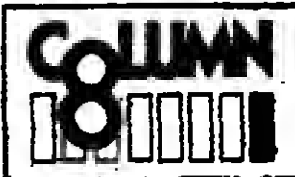
He said that while Libya supported the Irish Republican Army's cause it was no longer arming it. If Tripoli were directing the IRA, he added, it would urge it to halt its military operations if there was a chance of a settlement by peaceful means.

He said that while Libya supported the Irish Republican Army's cause it was no longer arming it. If Tripoli were directing the IRA, he added, it would urge it to halt its military operations if there was a chance of a settlement by peaceful means.

He met President Suharto, even though Jakarta like Kuala Lumpur has no relations with the Jewish state.

In January 1993, Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev became the first head of state of an Islamic country to visit Israel since the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat did so in December 1977.

Kyrgyzstan opened diplomatic relations with Israel in March 1992.



Volcanic mud buries village

SAN FERNANDO, Philippines (AFP) — Policemen firing guns into the air forcibly evacuated more than 4,000 people near this northern town after a mud avalanche from the Pinatubo volcano buried their village, police said Friday. The men of Manibang Pasig at first refused to leave their homes as the mudflow lapped up to their doorsteps on Monday, forcing police to scare them into boarding trucks sent to evacuate them, police spokesmen said. The mud came from the flanks of Pinatubo, which erupted in 1991 killing nearly 1,000 people and affecting climatic patterns worldwide. Heavy rain loosens the deposits of volcanic debris from the mountainsides, posing an ever-present threat to nearby villages during the wet season.

Indonesian minibus hit by train

JAKARTA (R) — Eleven Indonesians were killed when their minibus was hit by an express passenger train to Indonesia's Central Java Province, the Antara News Agency reported on Friday. Antara said the minibus, chartered by the group to attend a religious gathering, stalled in the middle of the train tracks near Kedungbener village on Thursday and could not be pushed off before the train appeared. The crumpled vehicle was dragged over more than 500 metres down the tracks before the train stopped.

11-year-old murder suspect found slain

CHICAGO (AP) — His nickname was "Yummy." In a short life filled with abuse, he was prosecuted at least eight times for crimes before police sought him in a shooting spree that left one teenager dead and two others wounded. Officers found Robert Sandifur in a pool of blood beneath a railroad overpass Thursday. He was 11. Robert's body — not yet 1.52 metres, not quite 31.7 kilograms — lay about seven blocks from where police believe he opened fire Sunday at two different groups of boys, fatally hitting a 14-year-old girl, Shavon Dean, about 9 metres from her home. Robert was suspected of having gun ties, and two gunshot wounds — one to the back of the head, one to the top — led police to suspect fellow gang members had killed him. Authorities had a suspect in the boy's slaying. Solemn neighbours gathered around the pool of Robert's blood in the south side neighbourhood of neat yards and well-kept homes. "This is our problem," Valerie Jordan said. "The authorities and the system have failed. This is our child. The young lady that was killed, that was our baby." In the last two years, Robert was prosecuted for robbery, car theft, arson, burglary and other crimes. He was convicted twice, but, except for three weeks of detention, he only got probation. Robert was no stranger to the state's child welfare agency, either. A 1986 investigation by the Department of Children and Family Services found scars on Robert's face, cordlike marks on his abdomen and leg, and cigarette burns on his buttocks. Robert was taken from his mother and placed with his grandmother, who nicknamed him "Yummy" for his love of cookies. Complaints that she was not supervising the boy led to his placement in a juvenile facility in 1993. But he ran away. In July a judge returned Robert to his grandmother until the boy could be put in an out-of-state detention centre that permits looking in or physically restraining children. Dr. Elva Poznanski, chief of child psychiatry at St. Luke's Medical Centre in Chicago, said she's seeing more violence among young children, many the products of abusive homes. "If you don't provide some way to raise these kids to be useful citizens, you're going to spend a hell of a lot of money on the other end," she said. Robert's grandmother, Janie Fields, became hysterical before she shut the door on reporters. "I really can't say what I'm going through," she said.